

THE
NAWay
MAGAZINE[®]

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



JULY 2015

VOLUME THIRTY-TWO ♦ NUMBER THREE



• [2015 Membership Survey](#)

• [Another NA first](#)

• [Happy Mondays Group](#)



THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

The NA Way Magazine, published in English, Farsi, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, belongs to the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Its mission, therefore, is to provide each member with recovery and service information, as well as recovery-related entertainment, which speaks to current issues and events relevant to each of our members worldwide. In keeping with this mission, the editorial staff is dedicated to providing a magazine which is open to articles and features written by members from around the world, as well as providing current service and convention information. Foremost, the journal is dedicated to the celebration of our message of recovery—"that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

NA World Services, Inc.
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA
Telephone: (818) 773-9999
Fax: (818) 700-0700
Website: www.na.org

The NA Way Magazine welcomes the participation of its readers. You are invited to share with the NA Fellowship in our quarterly international journal. Send us your experience in recovery, your views on NA matters, and feature items. All manuscripts submitted become the property of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Subscription, editorial, and business services: PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9099.

The NA Way Magazine presents the experiences and opinions of individual members of Narcotics Anonymous. The opinions expressed are not to be attributed to Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Narcotics Anonymous, The NA Way Magazine, or Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. If you are interested in receiving a free subscription to The NA Way, please write to the address below or send an email to naway@na.org.

The NA Way Magazine (ISSN 1046-5421), The NA Way, and Narcotics Anonymous are registered trademarks of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. The NA Way Magazine is published quarterly by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311. Periodical postage is paid at Santa Clarita, CA, and at additional entry points. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The NA Way Magazine, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9099.

From the editor

The walls and halls of the World Service Office are decorated with remarkable NA artwork and memorabilia from around the world. Members who tour the office take photos, ask questions, and sometimes shed a few tears as they move through the Steps and Traditions hallway or come upon the original group logo from Jimmy K's archives.

Last month, thousands more NA members encountered NA's worldwide breadth at WCNA 36 in Rio de Janeiro—or by "attending" WCNA main meetings in their own living rooms, home groups, or event venues. The usual telephone hook-up to the Sunday morning meeting was available for all of us to celebrate Unity Day, but this year the four main meetings were also audio-streamed live and free via the internet. Initial estimates are that nearly 25,000 participated in the convention in person and via the internet.

We've captured a glimpse of Unity Day and WCNA here, but there's always more to the story, so we'll include more WCNA coverage in the October issue—including our usual interesting WCNA facts and figures.

We hope you'll enjoy this issue, especially the many enhancements included with your electronic NA Way. And maybe what you read and see here will prompt questions, ideas, even a few tears as you share NA service and recovery experiences with your fellows from around the world.

De J, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature	3	Traditions Project Update	13
• Another NA first		Fellowship development	14
• WCNA 36 & Unity Day 2015		• European Service Learning Days	
Sharing	7	Basic caption contest	15
• Unconditional love		Picture this	16
• My Higher Power		Service Center	17
• Surrender flows		Calendar	18
• Life on life's terms		NAWS Product Update	19
2015 Membership Survey	9	Coming Soon	20
		WCNA 36 merchandise	20

Electronic subscribers can click here for additional content.

Cover photo: Patricio M, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The NA Way Magazine welcomes letters from all readers. Letters to the editor can respond to any article that has appeared in The NA Way, or can simply be a viewpoint about an issue of concern in the NA Fellowship. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and we reserve the right to edit. All letters must include a signature, valid address, and phone number. First name and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer requests anonymity.

Another NA first: Live audio streaming

I drove home from work on Thursday, 11 June, just like on any other warm summer day—got home, got changed, and got dinner ready. Then it hit me: The four main meetings at WCNA were streaming live this year. The opening meeting was happening now. I quickly plugged into the streaming page and then into my favorite social media site. I met up with fellow NA friends from around the world and we all chatted and explored the technology bringing us this experience live for the first time in NA history.

As I listened to the speaker, I thought about some of our many "firsts" over the years. You see, I got clean BC: "before computers" and "before cell phones." Typewriters were common at service meetings back then. I recalled my first meeting and the announcement that NA had seven NA meetings a week for the first time, so we could do our 90-in-90 in NA. I remember the first wireless phone call to my sponsor, my first internet search for "NA," and scrolling those early web pages. I drifted back to that first *NA Way Magazine* I received in the mail in 1984 and re-felt that connection in print with members in California, Nebraska, the UK, and many other emerging communities. I remembered my first WCNA in 1984. Tonight was another "first."

On my computer, I jumped back and forth between members posting images from the convention (banners and shirts, the room, the rows and rows of chairs at the convention center, and some familiar faces). I skimmed their posts, and fiddled with my audio connection. Latin music played in the background at the convention center while we waited. Then it started: the typical calls for quiet, the typical convention announcements like when the merchandise room would be open, etc., and finally, that familiar moment of silence known around the world.

When the geographic countdown began, I really felt the electricity and felt WCNA lift off the ground! We had our own online geographic countdown on a social media page: Ireland, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Washington, Connecticut, California, Canada, and many others! As the meeting continued, the readings from our Little White Book were read in Russian, Portuguese, and English and were followed by the speakers from around the world. We are truly an international community of recovering addicts.

The sound quality was not ideal that first night and needed tweaking (probably a microphone problem that was later adjusted for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday meetings), but this online group of us listening remotely became full participants in our own developing NA community regardless. We chatted through the whole meeting with each other (and to some this would be texting and cross-talking during a meeting). But as we posted our favorite words heard, expressed tears, expressed gratitude, and



Photo: Unity Day 2015—Bonner S, Washington, USA

posted familiar emoticons, it was our way of clapping and hugging and acknowledging with one another that we were, indeed, connected and connecting with each other in a historic fashion. The very technology that brought us together was seen as a minor inconvenience. We knew we were the early adopters: the beta testers. Somebody had to be first. Yes, there are many "firsts" and many yet to come. I hope we never rest. Thank you, NA!

Rich W, South Carolina, USA



The aftermath of our breakfast potluck for Unity Day 2015 in [West Puget Sound Area](#), [Washington/Northern Idaho Region](#) in Bremerton, Washington.

Bonner S, Washington, USA

WCNA 36 & Unity Day 2015

Mahalo!

As we sat in our living room on Maui, it was an emotional moment to hear the singing and feel the energy in the room from Rio on Sunday at the closing meeting of WCNA 36! Big mahalos for the live audio feed! We had to miss the World Convention this year, and we were so sad, but the live audio stream did give us the feeling of unity! Aloha!

Sharon and Charlie Q, Hawaii, USA

Online audio-streamed WCNA meetings

Shalom, love, and hugs from addicts in recovery living in Tzfat, Israel! We listened and heard Sunday's meeting in Brazil loud and clear while watching a beautiful sunset here at home! Amazing for this small group of us to be connected, to feel part of a worldwide fellowship, in real time, while sitting on a porch on the edge of a small mountain during a sunset. Thank you, NA World Services, for making this possible by using technology to help carry the message, to connect people around the world, and to include us in the spiritual experience of recovery with addicts not only in Brazil, but throughout the world! We also participated by sharing with recovering addicts worldwide on social media during and after the meeting. No longer do those who can't afford to travel or who are unable to travel due to health or other issues have to feel excluded; now we can all be included in the World Convention of NA experience. Wow!

Grateful recovering addicts in Tzfat, Israel

Our gratitude speaks

In Saint George, Utah, we celebrated Unity Day with the whole world. There were many newcomers at our event, and it was actually our area's first Unity Day telephone hook-up ever. Some who attended have never even been to an NA convention (and our [Southern Utah Area](#) Convention 8 was scheduled for the weekend after Unity Day, so they would soon have a chance for that experience). The speaker and everyone else were amazing! We had a fabulous day sharing our freedom with about 70 people attending, including folks from two treatment houses.

Roseanne S, Utah, USA



Photo: Roseanne S, Utah, USA

From one world to another

I met Nelson at the [World Service Conference](#) in 2014. We were both selling merchandise at the World Market, raising funds for our respective regions. He didn't speak much English and I didn't know any Portuguese, but we worked out swapping T-shirts with each other. It was possible that we would never see each other again after that... but fast-forward a year and a bit, and there we both were at WCNA36, immediately having a big hug as soon as we saw each other. With a bit of help from a translations app, he told me he would be sharing in a meeting, and naturally, I wanted to be there to hear him share. It was, after all, the first bilingual WCNA.

I found my way to the right room at the right time, and there he was, sitting at the front, with the meeting about to start. Enough time for one more hug. However, there were no translations headsets in that room. I realized I had arrived at a Portuguese-speaking meeting, so I sat and listened anyway, not understanding a word he was saying, feeling plenty of the love and passion he was clearly sharing anyway. I cried—and not for the first time on this trip; it was a World Convention, and I found out that that's what happens here!

At the end of the meeting, we circled up for the Serenity Prayer. Of course, this, too, was not in my language, and I just listened. The passion's volume was multiplied by all the voices in the room. This was truly shiver-inducing, the hairs on my arms standing to attention—just amazing. And I cried again. I loved being at my first NA World Convention, and I want to keep coming back.

Roger S, Christchurch, New Zealand



Photo: Patricio M, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Recovery really exists

My gratitude speaks to the members at Meeting Recreio. After I found I was lost while looking for a meeting, I asked a young couple for directions. Luckily for me, the young lady spoke French and had me turn back. Finally, as I was looking up at the buildings for the address, I saw the Narcóticos Anônimos sign. What a beautiful welcome—one you only receive in an NA room!

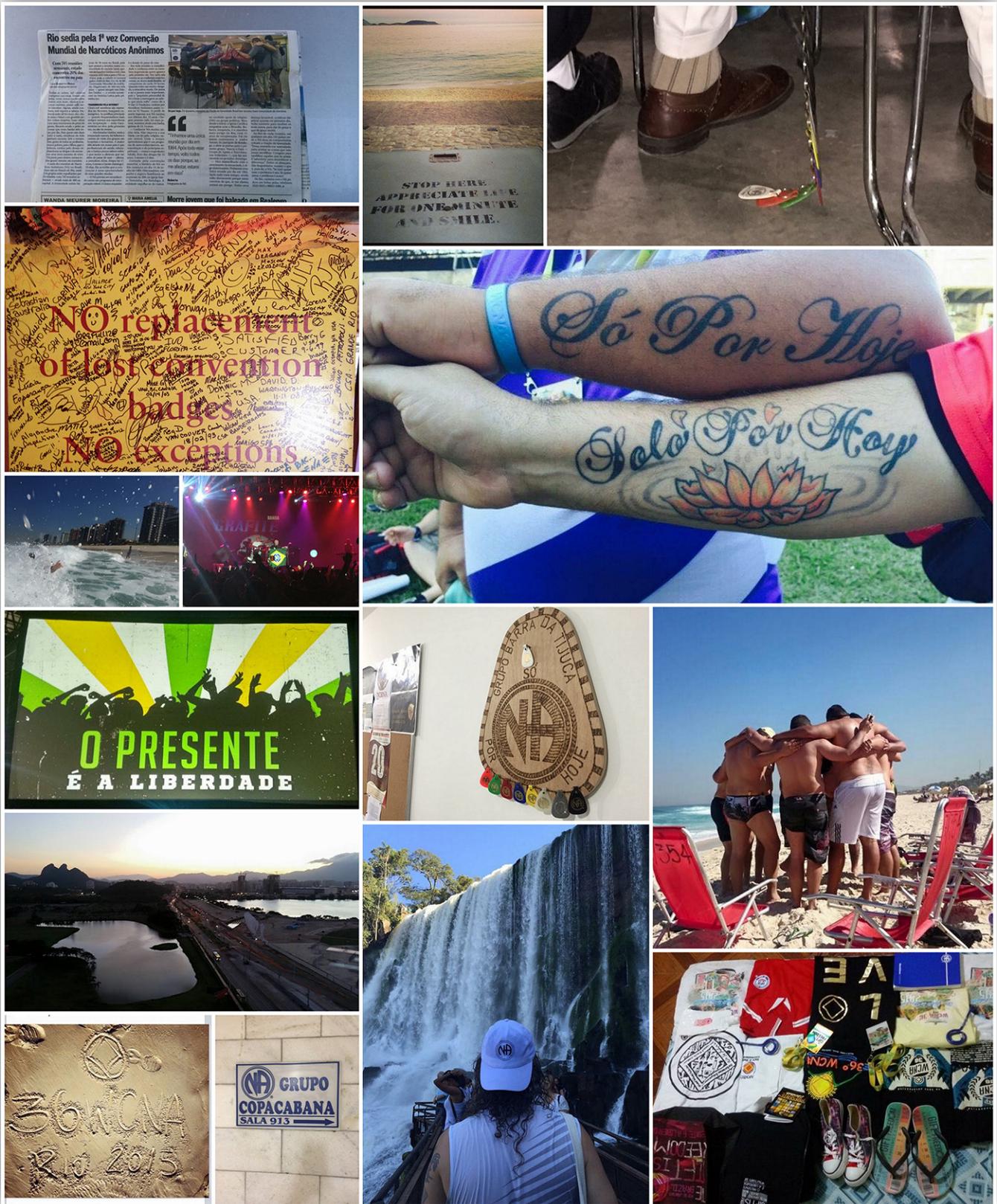
I did not understand what the members were saying, except when someone offered to translate; however, I felt the same passion and thirst for recovery so characteristic of any addict anywhere. The meeting lasted more than two hours. Yes, yes, you read that right. Each member had the right to speak. Even better, a member went around the room several times during the meeting to offer coffee, water, and biscuits. Wow!

As it came my turn to share, a member who knew French translated. Finally, I joined a small group after the meeting for a tapioca (a stuffed flour bread), a typical Brazilian meal of the area, and then headed back to my apartment. To the members at Meeting Recreio: Obrigado por este belo presente. Merci pour ce beau cadeau. Thank you for this beautiful gift.

Alain F, Quebec, Canada

[Click here for WCNA Merchandise updates](#)

WCNA 36 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



WCNA and Unity Day Photos:
Thank you to members from Belem, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina;
California, Utah, and Washington, USA; and Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

Unconditional love



When I came to the NA Fellowship, my intentions and motives were all wrong. All I wanted to know was how to use without suffering the consequences of being put out by my mother and my children who didn't want me around them or my grandchildren. I was angry with them even though I knew I was an addict and that not only was my life unmanageable, but I had also made their lives unmanageable. Now this didn't register in my mind at first because of the anger and denial that I was stuck in. I was in the mind-set that the only person I was hurting was me and that the money that I was spending was mine and I could do whatever I wanted with it.

I attended my first meeting, sat in the back of the room, and damn near turned my back to the others because I didn't know anyone, I was not like them, and I was scared. When it came time to accept my welcome tag, I did introduce myself as an addict—and without hesitation returned to my seat in the corner. One of the recovering addicts saw the fear on my face and got up, came to me, and grabbed me by the hand like one would do with a child. He led me to a seat by him at the table with other members, and then whispered in my ear, "You never have to be alone again."

That was very special to me, and I didn't understand the reason then, but I started feeling like I was a part of something.

The next night I went to my second meeting, which would take away the fear that I had. When I entered the room an addict grabbed me at the door and gave me a hug that I will never forget and that I still cherish today. He hugged me so tight, rubbed my back, and told me, "It's going to be okay." Now, mind you, I was not okay with being hugged in this manner by a man. I tried to pull away a couple of times, but he would not let me go. I believe he could sense the fear in me, and I swear to this day I believe he squeezed that fear right out of me.

I didn't understand it at the time, but it was these two addicts who gave me the hope I needed to keep coming back. When I asked them why they did these things and what they wanted from me, they both said it was what someone else did for them, and that all they wanted was for me to stay clean and someday do the same for another scared newcomer. I find myself doing the same thing with newcomers today—giving back something that was freely given to me. It's that unconditional love that today I understand in the phrase "Let us love you until you can love yourself."

Tommy A, Pennsylvania, USA

My Higher Power

There are many theories that try to define what a Higher Power is. I don't think it would be worthwhile to decipher what that power is or is not. What I believe is important in the recovery process is simply to accept, just as it's indicated in the Second Step: that it is something that loves me, takes care of me, and is more powerful than I am.

That it loves me means that it allows me to accept myself, people, and circumstances and situations as they are, without judging them or trying to change them or adapt them to my personal wishes.

That it takes care of me means that it instills in me the desire to do better things for myself, to become interested in other people (in spite of them having different ways of acting, thinking, and living than my own ways), and to use my time to leave a better world to live in for my loved ones.

That it is superior to me means that a Higher Power is vast enough to take me to a level of thinking and acting such that, although it goes against my own nature, I am moved to act in ways that are based on decisions inspired by sane judgment.

Although I have not defined it, the Higher Power works through me to act in ways that lead to my long-lasting well-being and to the well-being of those around me and the world as a whole. Consequently, my Higher Power operates without me thinking about it when I act in a spontaneous, authentic, and selfless manner.

Jesus G, Coahuila, Mexico

Surrender flows

Hello, I am Seyed, an addict from Iran. I have been clean for eight years, eleven months, and 19 days just for today. There were times when I used to live and lived to use, and that has changed for me a lot. Life is not the using anymore, and our Fellowship leads me through letting me be of service. While I am serving, I am breathing and smelling my new life, which is a gift. I am not dreaming anymore because I am living my dreams. For me, NA service is the surrender my will. I believe that in a Fellowship like ours, there is nothing wrong with surrender; in fact, surrender is right for us. We may confuse surrender with becoming tired or weak, but surrender flows while we are acting upon our principles rather than our own views or will. My service is the surrender of my view, my will. I love you, and I love NA!

Seyed N, Bandar Abbas, Iran



The Kathmandu area is badly damaged because of the 7.8 earthquake that struck us first on 25 April 2015. Since then, we have had continuous aftershocks—more than 4,000 as of late June.

We were at our last convention meeting at our ASC office when the first earthquake hit. Those of us there suffered only minor physical injuries. However, because of the earthquake damage, we couldn't host the convention which was supposed to have been held 1-3 May 2015. Since most of the event expenses had been paid already, we lost a lot of money.

Before the earthquake, we had 23 weekly NA meetings in Kathmandu, but now we have only twelve meetings weekly, and most of the meetings take place outside because buildings where we held our meetings were damaged. With monsoon season approaching, we may not be able to hold many of these meetings taking place outside, so then we may have six or seven NA meetings weekly. Our H&I services have also halted since the earthquake occurred and we haven't been able to pursue our area service committee's projects. Despite these challenges, our hope is still alive and we deeply appreciate members from around the world who have supported us, contributed, and kept us in their thoughts and prayers.

Suyash R, Kathmandu, Nepal



2015 Membership Survey

Every two years we attempt to gather information about our members, and the time to gather that information is now! Some may wonder why we want this information and how we use it. One of the aims of “A Vision for NA Service” is that NA is viewed as a “viable program of recovery.” With members from several countries attending the world convention in Rio de Janeiro, and members around the world participating from their homes, we have an opportunity to demonstrate that we are, indeed, a viable and respected recovery community resource. Presenting ourselves in this way helps us offer hope to others that they, too, can recover. We encourage each member to spread the word of the Membership Survey to their friends. We would like as many members throughout NA worldwide to participate.

1a. Country of residence (Check **one** only)

- a. Brazil
- b. USA
- c. Canada
- d. United Kingdom
- e. Argentina
- f. Uruguay
- g. Russia
- h. Other: _____

1b. State/Province of residence (if applicable)

2. Gender

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Other: _____

3. Age _____ years

4. Race

- a. Black (of African descent)
- b. White (Caucasian; or of European descent)
- c. Latino, Hispanic
- d. Asian (including Indian subcontinent)
or Pacific Islander
- e. Indigenous
- f. Multi-racial
- g. Other: _____

5. Highest educational level completed

- a. High school/Secondary school
- b. Trade school/Two-year degree
- c. College/University degree
- d. Advanced University degree
- e. None of the above

6a. Employment status (Check **one** only)

- a. Homemaker (go to #7a)
- b. Employed full-time
- c. Employed part-time
- d. Retired (go to #7a)
- e. Unemployed (go to #7a)
- f. Student

6b. Primary type of work (Check **one** only)

- a. Manager/Administrator
- b. Educator
- c. Medical/Health Professional
- d. Addiction Treatment Professional
- e. Other Professional (government, finance, etc.)
- d. Technical/IT Professional
- g. Sales/Marketing
- h. Craft Worker/Artisan/Trade
- i. Laborer/Service Industry
- j. Clerical/Administrative Assistant
- k. Transportation Industry
- l. Other (including self-employed)

7a. Do you have a sponsor now?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7b. Are you sponsoring others?

- a. Yes
- b. No

8. What service commitments do you have in NA?

(Check **any** that apply)

- a. Hospitals and Institutions (H&I)
- b. Public Information/Public Relations (PI/PR) and/or Phonelines
- c. Meeting (secretary, treasurer, coffeemaker, etc.)
- d. Area service
- e. Regional service
- f. World service
- g. None

9. How often do you usually attend NA meetings?

(Please answer **one** only)

- Weekly: _____ times
- Monthly: _____ times
- Yearly: _____ times

10a. Do you attend meetings of any other twelve-step fellowships?

- a. Yes (If yes, go to #10b)
- b. No (Go to #11)

10b. Which twelve-step fellowships do you attend?

(Check **any** that apply)

- a. AA
- b. CA
- c. GA
- d. OA
- e. Nar-Anon
- f. AI-Anon
- g. Other: _____

11. Do you have any family members in a twelve-step recovery program?

- a. Yes
- b. No

12a. Which drug was the MAIN drug you used?
(Only check **one**)

- a. Alcohol
- b. Cannabis (pot, hashish, etc.)
- c. Cocaine
- d. Crack
- e. Ecstasy
- f. Tranquilizers (Klonopin, Valium, Xanax, etc.)
- g. Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.)
- h. Inhalants (glue, nitrous oxide, etc.)
- i. Opiates (heroin, morphine, etc.)
- j. Opioids (Oxycodone, Vicodin, Fentanyl, etc.)
- k. Stimulants (speed, crystal meth, etc.)
- l. Methadone/Buprenorphine
- m. Prescribed medication

12b. What drugs did you use at any time on a regular basis? (Check **any** that apply)

- a. Alcohol
- b. Cannabis (pot, hashish, etc.)
- c. Cocaine
- d. Crack
- e. Ecstasy
- f. Tranquilizers (Klonopin, Valium, Xanax, etc.)
- g. Hallucinogens (LSD, PCP, etc.)
- h. Inhalants (glue, nitrous oxide, etc.)
- i. Opiates (heroin, morphine, etc.)
- j. Opioids (Oxycodone, Vicodin, Fentanyl, etc.)
- k. Stimulants (speed, crystal meth, etc.)
- l. Methadone/Buprenorphine
- m. Prescribed medication
- n. Other: _____



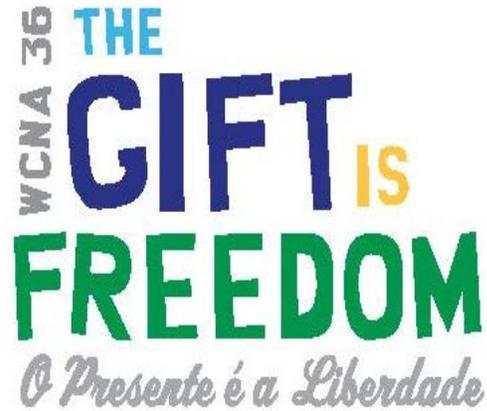
21a. Are you currently taking prescribed medication?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Choose not to answer

21b. What are you taking this medication for?

(Check **any** that apply)

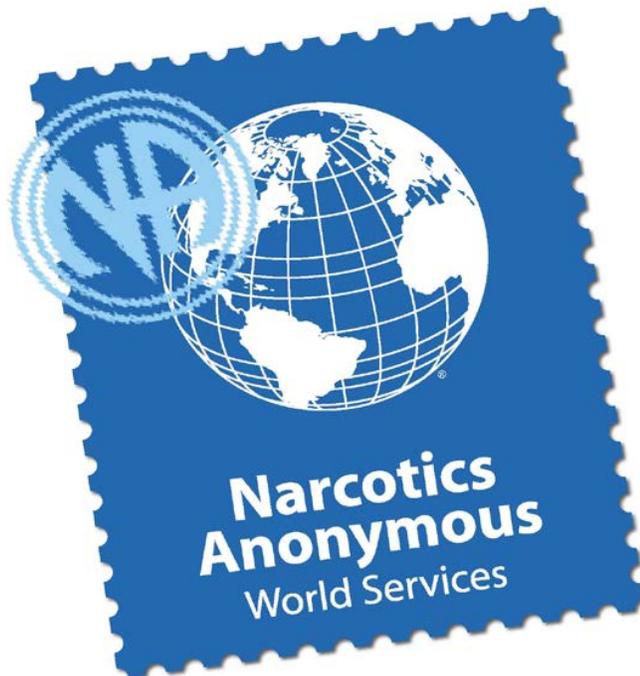
- a. Mental health issues (depression, anxiety, bipolar, etc.)
- b. Short-term medical condition (surgery, broken bones, dental work, etc.)
- c. Chronic health condition (Hepatitis C, HIV, cancer, etc.)
- d. Drug replacement (methadone, suboxone, buprenorphine, etc., used to treat addiction)
- e. Medical maintenance of health issues (blood pressure, thyroid, hormone replacement, etc.)
- f. Other: _____



You can help us by emailing the link for the online version or by distributing paper copies of the survey to your NA friends, collecting the responses, and mailing or faxing them to us.

To complete the survey online by 4 October 2015, go to www.na.org/survey

The deadline for mail/fax survey completion is 15 September 2015.



Traditions Project Update

Our work on the Traditions Project has continued to move forward, with the most recent update being the release of the final batch of review material. Traditions Seven through Ten were made available in late May, and Traditions Eleven and Twelve and the closing were released 1 July. The drafts and other materials are available at www.na.org/traditions (on a mobile device, please go to <http://m.na.org/traditions>).

The Drafts and Timeline

Due to the project's ambitious timeline, we decided to release the third batch of chapters in two overlapping stages. This gave us a little more time to get the final chapters ready for review, and it will allow local literature review groups and committees a bit more time with the drafts as well. We are impressed with how busy and diligent everyone has been in reading drafts and sending input. Thank you.

The deadline for input on Traditions Seven through Ten is 31 August. The deadline for Traditions Eleven and Twelve and the closing is 30 September.

As always, we strongly encourage you to send input as early as possible—there's no need to hold your input until you've read the entire batch; a chapter at a time (or even a section at a time) is actually preferable. The sooner we receive your input, the more time we have to incorporate your ideas into the revisions. In accordance with conference policy, an approval form will be published in November 2015. It will be an addendum to the *Conference Agenda Report* (CAR).

With the two-part R&I, the schedule should provide a total of roughly fifteen weeks to review seven chapters (Traditions Seven through Twelve and a closing section). This means scheduling a workshop every other week if you do one tradition at a time, or once a month if you do two traditions at a time. Planning out your schedule in advance and asking members to read the material prior to coming for the workshop can help you be more efficient in discussing the material and gathering input to send in.

Thanks again to all for your participation.

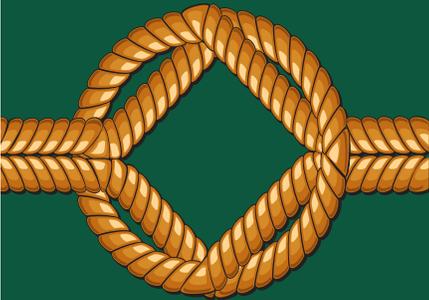
Participate on the project discussion board:

<http://disc.na.org/trads>

Find complete project details,
including materials to help you submit, at

www.na.org/traditions.

Traditions Book



Project

*It takes an
entire Fellowship
to create the best
NA literature possible!*

Review & Input Dates

Review and Input Deadlines:

Traditions 7-10
31 August 2015

Traditions 11-12 & closing
30 September 2015

For more details, visit
na.org/traditions



*Input from members around the world is collated,
categorized, and incorporated into the book.*

Fellowship development

European Service Learning Days

Greetings from the European Service Learning Days Workgroup! So here we are, after the first ESL, an event the [EDM](#) dreamed about having for the last 20 years or so. And in the end it took one proposal to create one workgroup to make it happen. In this workgroup were members from Germany, Sweden, Finland, Croatia, and Israel. For a year and a half we held virtual meetings to plan this whole event, and we are just stunned and amazed at how great it all turned out.

Members from 31 countries and 28 regions/NA communities came together for the very first time in this way to share their experience, strength, and hope with each other. It was just beautiful—hardcore fellowship development, really . . . which is what our zonal forum, the EDM (European Delegates Meeting), is about!

We want to thank all of you who came and made this event so successful and for the support we have had from the rest of our worldwide Fellowship throughout this journey. During ESL, we were actually connected via online videoconference to the Northern California Convention public relations workshop, and we were very grateful to be directly connected in that way.

This was really fellowship development in a broader way than we ever have done before. We are eagerly waiting to hear about the effect this event will have throughout NA communities in our zone. We hope the delegates want to see this event happen again, and that there will be members willing to host and plan another ESL.

We made history, and we feel proud and blessed to have been a part of it! On behalf of the 2015 ESL Workgroup, thank you for letting us serve!

*Udo B, Germany, and Veronica B, Sweden
ESL Coordinators*

ESL ESH

I have just experienced a mind-blowing three days in Berlin! First, I would like to thank the coordinators, as this has taken five years to organize. There were 31 countries and 28 regions/communities involved. There were three members from the [World Service Conference](#) involved throughout the weekend. There was so much experience, strength, and hope through all different people doing service in NA. I was involved in fellowship development with the United Kingdom, and [FDUK](#) delivered a workshop on distance sponsorship. FDUK started this in the UK and we thought it would be useful for other NA communities that are developing, and for areas without a lot of local sponsorship

experience. There were workshops on [building better home groups](#), the [Service System Proposals](#), H&I, NA's Twelve Concepts, our World Services, and the list goes on. I have not been to an event where I felt such friendliness, powerful passion, and commitment. The unity was breathtaking. This event makes service attractive, and I believe we will all take our ESL ESH back to our countries!

Ade O, Weymouth Dorset, United Kingdom

Fortified NA unity

It was just three weeks before the First European Service Learning Days when the RSC said I should go to Berlin, and I whispered, "I'm afraid; I dare not." I was thinking that so many demands and expectations would be put on my four-year recovery amongst all those "service giants" in NA. Then, when



I entered the event venue, immediately all was right. My heart and mind filled up with fellowship and unity.

My sense of belonging has never been stronger in my recovery, and my loving Higher Power showed me every minute how NA works when one addict is helping another. It was two-and-a-half days of receiving and sharing with so much vitality!

Sure, I picked up a treasure chest of knowledge and experience: how to work the Traditions, group support, H&I and PR, consensual decision making, and more. But most of all, I got connected. I brought home with me hugs from recovering addicts worldwide. It was humbling yet overwhelming, and I found a fortified awareness of NA unity in loving service for [NA-Netherlands Regional Service Committee](#).

Thon H, The Hague, Netherlands

Learning about learning days

In 2013 our public relations team had a dream to hold a learning days event in [Egypt](#). We dedicated money to it in our budget, but we couldn't do it because we didn't know how to go about it. We needed to learn how to plan and host it, and we also realized that an event like this needs more collaboration, not just the PR team's efforts. Just after being elected as PR committee chair, I heard about the European Service Learning days in Berlin and I was lucky to join that great event. I went to Berlin and I was looking forward to fulfilling our dream of learning how to develop learning days in Egypt. What I found out was that the event was simple, and I found the beauty of its simplicity. What really touched me is the love and how we are really close to each other even though we don't speak the same language. We shared our thoughts and we understood each other regardless of the language barrier. Although I was a thousand miles away from my home, I felt at home. I went back to Egypt carrying the dream on my shoulder. We had a fruitful discussion, shared what was learned at ESL, and we are planning to have Egypt Learning Days soon.

Ahmed E, Cairo, Egypt

Basic caption contest

Here's your chance to participate in *The NA Way Magazine* in a whole new way. Write a caption for this comic, send it to us, and you'll be magically entered in our caption contest. We'll choose the best (and maybe a few other really good ones) for publication in an upcoming issue. Your prize will be the satisfaction of contributing to the humorous recovery pursuits of fellow NA members—and seeing your name in *The NA Way*!



Email your entry with "Basic Caption Contest" in the subject line, and be sure to include your name and where you're from in the body of the email: naway@na.org.

Calling All Newsletter Editors and Committees

Does your area or region publish a newsletter?

Please let us know—and add us to your email/ mailing list!

naway@na.org

The NA Way Magazine; PO Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409

Picture this

NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places and events. Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us the group/event name, location, how long it has been in existence, format or special traditions, and what makes it a unique part of your NA community.

Happy Mondays Group

Our NA home group was formed out of desperation and willingness after a member of our area relapsed and ended up a patient at a mental health hospital. He pleaded with the staff to provide a small room to try to get a meeting going. Through his persistence and willingness, and although he was still an inpatient at the time, they provided a small room for one hour every Monday night.

Five members including our inpatient member committed to serve the group for three months to get the meeting established. Today, it is a group of 30+ regular members and has been meeting for four years running. It is one of the strongest groups in my area, [the Chiltern and Thames Valley Area](#). In exchange for the use of the room, we give a donation each month to the hospital.

We have a unique format that includes ten minutes at the start of the meeting for members who have used or are thinking of using, or anyone with a burning desire to share something. We also use spiritual principle sticks, which are

hidden under a cloth. The secretary chooses a member to select a hidden principle stick, and then we try to share on that principle.

My loving home group is called Happy Mondays. We meet at 7:30 pm in a mental health hospital in Oxford, United Kingdom. We recover and share with love, affection, hugs, and a refreshing drink. Please, if you are ever near Oxford, UK, come and fellowship with us and experience the essence of NA love and the character of my home group, Happy Mondays.

Pete A, Oxford, United Kingdom





Service Center

To increase awareness of some of NA's service resources and the ways they can help trusted servants, groups, and service bodies, we'll be highlighting some of them here in *The NA Way*, along with links to additional resources.

What are SPs?

[Service pamphlets](#), or SPs, are resources developed by the World Board (as directed by the 2006 World Service Conference) for use by groups, service bodies, and trusted servants. Although SPs are not intended to be read in meetings, they can be displayed on the group's literature table for interested members.

[Principles and Leadership in NA Service](#) emphasizes the importance of effective NA leadership. It also addresses how NA principles are applied in service, the skills and qualities of effective leaders, how our service bodies can attract and encourage leaders, and how we select and support our trusted servants.

Perhaps the most important role of an effective leader is to be an example of our principles in action. Our leaders demonstrate humility, for example, by following the direction of group conscience as called for in the Second Tradition. They embody the integrity and accountability called for in the Fifth and Eighth Concepts when they keep us informed about the tasks assigned to them. They demonstrate the integrity and anonymity called for in the Twelfth Tradition when they are consistent in their application of our principles, no matter what the circumstances.

Our NA Literature

[Click here to access the most recent NA literature timeline](#)

Our greatest treasure and resource is the depth of our personal knowledge of the recovery process. We share that treasure at meetings, at our celebrations, over coffee, and in our literature.

Living Clean: The Journey Continues, Preface

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...

Read and share these recent bulletins about NA literature:

[Narcotics Anonymous Copyrights and Literature](#)
[Group Conscience & NA Literature](#)

e-subscribe to *The NA Way* & other NAWS periodicals at www.na.org/subscribe 17



CALENDAR

The online calendar at na.org and the *The NA Way Magazine* calendar page are available to NA groups and service bodies registered with NA World Services to share information about multi-day events. Usually, events occurring between NA *Way* publication dates are published according to the schedule below. To enter events or to access event details, visit www.na.org/events.

Issue	Events Occurring	Submission Deadline
April	1 May – 31 July	15 January
July	1 August – 31 October	15 April
October	1 November – 31 January	15 July
January	1 February – 30 April	15 October

Important Notice: In order to comply with new privacy laws, beginning 1 April 2015, we will not be able to publish personal contact information in the online and NA *Way Magazine* calendars. However, the email address and/or website of the event or an associated NA group, area, region, or zone that is registered with NAWS may be submitted. In addition, the person submitting event information will be asked to acknowledge that s/he has read and agrees to our Privacy Policy before the event can be activated on the calendar.

Brazil

Maranhão 11-13 Sep; Upaon-Acu Area Convention 7; Stefem, Colonia de Ferias do Sindicato dos Ferrovirios, Aracagy, Sao Luis; (98) 82182987

Rio Grande do Sul 11-13 Sep; Brazil Sul Regional Convention 5; Hotel Serra Azul, Gramado; www.naconvencaogramado.com

Canada

Alberta 9-11 Oct; Al-Sask Regional Convention; Lacombe Memorial Centre, Lacombe; www.alsaskrsc-na.org

Nova Scotia 6-8 Nov; Canadian Convention 23; Atlantica Hotel, Halifax; www.canadianconvention.com

Quebec 9-11 Oct; Quebec Regional Convention 28; Hotel Mortagne, Bourcheville; www.naquebec.org

Costa Rica

La Garita 23-25 Oct; Costa Rica Regional Convention 20; Hotel Martino Resort, La Garita; costaricana.org/convencion-xx--Costa-Rica-

Greece

Thessaloniki 18-20 Sep; Greece Regional Convention 11; Capsis Hotel, Thessaloniki; www.na-greece.gr/

India

West Bengal 19-21 Nov; Kolkata Area Convention; Lataguri, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata; www.nakolkata.org

Mexico

Rosarito 6-8 Nov; Latin American Convention 12; Puerto Nuevo Hotel & Villas, Rosarito; www.clana.org

United States

Alaska 9-11 Oct; Alaska Regional Convention 31; Millennium Hotel, Anchorage; www.akna.org

Arizona 25-27 Sep; Productive Members of Society Women's Oriented Retreat; Whispering Pines Camp, Prescott; pmswomensretreat@gmail.com

California 25-27 Sep; Area Habla Hispana Sur de California Convention 10; Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys; mallenitaichei42@gmail.com

Colorado 6-8 Nov; Colorado Regional Convention 29; The Westin, Westminster; crca@nacolorado.org; www.nacolorado.org/crcna/

Florida 2-4 Oct; HOWL; Adventures Unlimited, Milton; www.pensacolana.org
2) 20-22 Nov; Rainbow Weekend 18; Marriot North, Fort Lauderdale; www.rainbowweekend.org

Idaho 9-11 Oct; Pacific Northwest Convention 38; Riverside Hotel, Boise; www.sima.org

Illinois 6-8 Nov; Greater Illinois Regional Convention 19; Wyndham Garden Hotel, Urbana; www.centralillinoisna.org/gircna

Indiana 16-18 Oct; Central Indiana Area Convention 12; Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Indianapolis; www.naindiana.org/

Kansas 25-27 Sep; Mid-America Region Soul-to-Soul; Camp Chippewa, Ottawa; www.marscna.net/

Maryland 18-20 Sep; Tri-County Area Unity Retreat; Lions Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy; event info: 301.802.9584

Massachusetts 2-4 Oct; Southeastern Massachusetts Area Convention 4; Holiday Inn, Mansfield; www.nerna.org/events/all

2) 16-18 Oct; Berkshire County Area Convention 7; Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, Hancock; www.berkshirena.org

Michigan 20-22 Nov; Macomb Area Convention 5; Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights; 586.258.6159

Mississippi 9-11 Oct; Mississippi Regional Convention 32; Holiday Inn, Vicksburg; event info: 251.709.5768

Missouri 20-22 Nov; Saint Louis Area Convention; Sheraton Chalet Westport, Saint Louis; www.stlna.org/

Montana 2-4 Oct; Montana Regional Convention 5; Big Horn Resort, Billings; www.namontana.com

Nevada 2-4 Oct; Western Service Learning Days 29; Tuscany Suites & Casino, Las Vegas; WSLD29lasvegas@gmail.com; www.region51na.org

2) 29 Oct-1 Nov; Region 51 Convention 5; Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas; www.region51na.org

3) 6-9 Nov; Sierra Sage Regional Convention 20; Grand Sierra Resort Hotel Casino, Reno; www.sierrasagena.org

New Jersey 30 Oct-1 Nov; North East Area Convention 18; Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin; www.nanj.org/

New York 25-27 Sep; Western New York Regional Convention 20; Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa, Grand Island; www.nawny.org

2) 23-25 Oct; United States Service Conference 4; Marriott Courtyard Hotel, East Elmhurst; www.usscna.org

3) 30 Oct-1 Nov; Lighting the Way 13; Huntington Hilton, Melville; www.sasna.org/default.aspx

North Carolina 16-18 Oct; Greater Charlotte Area Convention 27; Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte; www.charlotte-na.org/

2) 20-22 Nov; Spectrum of Hope 2; Clarion Hotel, Greensboro; greensborona.org/soh/soh_registration112015.pdf

Oklahoma 16-18 Oct; Shawnee Fall Convention; Norman Inn, Norman; event info: 405.488.7876

South Carolina 13-15 Nov; Port City Area Convention 4; Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, North Charleston; www.portcityna.com

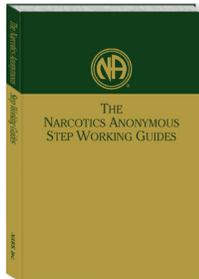
South Dakota 18-20 Sep; South Dakota Regional Convention 18; Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Rapid City; www.sdrna.com
Tennessee 9-11 Oct; Recovery on the Ridge 21; Camp Montvale, Maryville; www.naknoxarea.com
2) 26-29 Nov; Volunteer Regional Convention 33; Music Road Resort and Convention Center, Pigeon Forge; www.vrcna33.org
Texas 25-27 Sep; Serenity in the Sand; Travel Lodge, South Padre Island; www.rgvareaofna.org

2) 23-25 Oct; Best Little Regional Convention 27; Arbor Hotel and Conference Center, Lubbock; www.blrna-new3.com/
Utah 20-22 Nov; Utah Region Indoor Convention 17; Yarrow Hotel, Park City; www.uricna.com
Vermont 13-15 Nov; Champlain Valley Area Convention 26; Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington; www.cvana.org/convention

NAWS Product Update

eLit

The NA Step Working Guides



Available through iTunes (iOS only)



An interactive eVersion of the existing NA Twelve Steps study guide. Features an HTML section after each group of “hands-on” questions to enter and save or email responses.

Chinese

Group Reading Cards – Set of Seven

Item No. CH-9130 Price US \$4.60/4.25 €

Korean

Group Reading Cards – Set of Seven

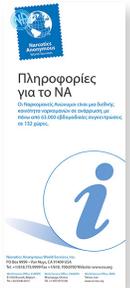
Item No. KO-9130 Price US \$4.60/4.25 €



Greek

Πληροφορίες για το NA

Item No. ZPRGR1002 Price US \$0.30/0.27 €



Hungarian

IP# 12, Az önmegszállottság háromszöge

Item No. HU-3112 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

IP# 15, Közérdekű Információk (PI) és az NA tag

Item No. HU-3115 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

Italian

IP #29, Introduzione alle riunioni di NA

Item No. IT-3129 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €



Norwegian

Living Clean: The Journey Continues



Å leve rusfrie: reisen fortsetter

Item No. NR-1150 Price US \$9.75/7.70 €

IP #29, En introduksjon til NA-møter

Item No. NR-3129 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €



Portuguese (Brazil)

Basic Text 6th Edition

Narcóticos Anônimos

Item No. PB-1101 Price US \$11.55/10.00 €

Russian

Sponsorship

Спонсорство

Item No. RU-1130 Price US \$8.25/7.15 €



Swahili

IP# 19, *Kujikubali*

Item No. SH-3119 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

Traditional Chinese

Group Reading Cards – Set of Seven

Item No. CT-9130 Price US \$4.60/4.25 €

Ukrainian

IP# 7, *Хіба я залежний(на)?*

Item No. UA-3107 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

IP#11, *Спонсорство*

Item No. UA-3111 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €



IP#16, *Новачку*

Item No. UA-3116 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

IP# 22, *Ласкаво просимо до Товариства «Анонімні Наркомани»*

Item No. UA-3122 Price US \$0.24/0.21 €

Coming Soon

Bronze Medallions

Additional denominations will soon be available in our stock

English 56 – 60 years

French, Portuguese, and Spanish

31 – 40 years, and eternity

Price US \$3.20/2.75 €

Lithuanian

Just for Today

Tik šiandien

Item No. LT-1112 Price US \$9.00/7.90 €

eLit

Will be available through Amazon and/or iTunes

The NA Step Working Guides

Russian

Basic Text

Just for Today

The NA Step Working Guides

WCNA 36 Merchandise

SOON to be available online

www.na.org/wcna

choose from a variety of flip flops, beach towels, mugs, sneakers ...

Treat yourself or buy a gift for a friend or sponsee/sponsor.

All sales are final; quantities and sizes are limited to stock on-hand.

