

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM

Aotearoa New Zealand - Australia - Bangladesh - China - Guam - Gulf States - Hawaii - Hong Kong
India - Indonesia - Japan - Korea - Malaysia - Nepal - Nerf - Pakistan - Phillipines - Siangapore - Thailand

A Network of  Communities

No #21 APFNewsletter May 2004

*Hello and welcome to all in the
Asia Pacific Region!*

Hope you all had as great an APF Forum in Bali as I did. It was heart-warming to see our Fellowship growing and the sincere efforts of all of you.

A special thank you to Bali both for the APF Conference and the Convention, it was a fantastic effort by so few. World class! I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of Pakistan for their offer to host the next APF.

I particularly want to say a huge thank you to Kerry for her previous service on the newsletter.

As I am in Australia and got clean here in 1984, this APF reminded me of early days here, where there was only one meeting in Adelaide and two in Melbourne. Now there are two meetings every day in Adelaide and up to three every day in Melbourne! I am filled with hope for all of us.

So like our newcomers a Special Welcome to our new member Cambodia! The most important member!

Thanks to everyone for your confidence in electing me the new Newsletter Chair. I hope it will be informative, interesting and inspiring to carry the message.

I have some exciting news I will be going to India for the next six months. I will be hoping to experience NA in this part of the Asia Pacific Region and bring you the newsletter from my visits. I look forward to catching up with our Indian APF members. Any tips would be warmly received.

I can't, We can

Yours in loving service,

Cathy

A Message From Kerry

Dear APF Members and Friends,

I was not able to be with you this year but I have heard from friends that were in Bali that this was one of the best APF Meetings ever. I have been thinking back to my first APF meeting in Bangkok and how truly it changed my life. The next seven years in Asia gave my life and my recovery a whole new purpose. . I am so grateful for that and for the life long friends that I have because of it.

The time I spent in the Asian Pacific Region will always be a precious part of my life. The countries I lived in, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and China all had wonderful things to offer but my life in the fellowship of each of those places is so full of love and incredible recovery relationships, that I will remember it long after all other memories have dimmed. I relapsed in Australia and through the Grace of God and a few very tolerant addicts got clean again there too.

I have been blessed to be part of new fellowships in Indonesia and in China. Part of my heart will always be with them. I truly learned that the language you speak, the color of your skin or the God you pray to is not important in recovery. It is the experience of following our path that matters.

In this world , so full of intolerance, I have been given the gift of sharing recovery with addicts from India, Pakistan, Thailand, Japan , Singapore and so many other places. I have been to meetings with addicts that I will

never be able to pronounce the name of but know by the look in their eyes that they are just like me .I will try my best to live up to the examples of unconditional love I have experienced from them.

Now my journey has taken me to yet another country. My husband Charlie and I moved to Mexico last year. The fellowship is huge here but there is always service to do.. There are no English speaking meetings yet. Maybe this will be my next NA service.

I have learned that service is what connects me to the suffering addict and gives meaning to my life. Thanks to those of you who have served with me and suffered my character defects.

I wish you all a long and happy recovery. Thank you so much for being part of my life and allowing me to be part of yours.

God Bless,

Kerry A.

Long-Distance Sponsorship

There was an invitation from our Hawaii Region to send a list of members emails for long-distance sponsorship. It was agreed to list anyone willing to sponsor in our APF Newsletter. So anyone willing please help by sending your email to me?

I received this inspirational letter from Uschi and she has agreed to let me share it with all of you. I think it explains:

What is Long-Distance Sponsorship and why do it?

I have 18 years clean (1 October 1985) and I am in Los Angeles. I truly believe sponsoring by mail and phone can work, if both take the principles of honesty, open-mindedness and willingness to heart.

I have a wonderful and close relationship with a sponsee in Europe for over 7 years now. We just saw each other again last year at the WCNA in San Diego, after not seeing each other for a few years. She and I and my sponsor and her sponsee all got to meet there, and we took pictures and it was just wonderful to have four generations of recovering women together at the NA 50th anniversary.

Then, there are two wonderful sponsees in Indonesia. The trans-pacific connection, my second place in the world to come home to! We had a chance at the APF to see each other again. A very happy reunion. We email and SMS, sometimes daily. We work Steps together by email and when we get to see each other.

Believe it or not... my European sponsee and I did a transatlantic 5th Step one time that took three phone calls. With cheap phone cards and special deals phone calls are inexpensive, if you remember that a lot can be said in 10 to 20 minutes when things are rough and you need to hear each others voice.

For me it's a most rewarding thing to share my life and recovery in this way. I am living as a foreign person in a country, and I've always had one of my feet on other continents. Having these wonderful connections with recovering women wherever they are in the world is so inspiring and at times very co ***Sponsorship***

There is this great friend who has a way to cheer me up by email with her very poetic little emails that say exactly what I need to hear, when I'm in a 'blue funk'. And at other times several others of us have fun kidding around SMSing on the Jakarta-LA-Jakarta circuit.

Personally, I would not try to sponsor a woman who's a newcomer over long-distance. But for people who have a little bit of cleantime, I know that it can be very good when there are no local NA sponsors around.

And also when I think about that I rarely get to see my own sponsor....we are busy, and we use the phone and email...even though we just live 80 km apart on opposite ends of Los Angeles County. Still, things have worked out for 13 years now. And if I need to see her, I will find a way. No matter how far I have to go.

We can always find a way! Going to any length, right?
Love, Uschi

A Great Start

...A Letter From Cambodia

Thanks for welcoming NA Cambodia to the APF. The Conference in Bali was a total inspiration for me and I was really impressed by the level of service that is so apparent in the Region. It's all too easy at times to forget NA as being such a Worldwide fellowship as you can get attached to one's community and forget about the bigger picture.

The lessons and support I was given over the week in Bali were invaluable to me. Consequently we have now learnt about the benefits of structure and have created service positions for all our members. We now have a PI, H&I, Treasurer, Literature, Translation and Web Design Committee, as well as a Chair and Secretary for our newly formed monthly business meeting. (although due to the size of our fellowship here the committee in each case consists of one person - still it's a start). All members seem to be enthusiastic about having something else to do other than just attend meetings. In one case of one of our newcomers, who has just over 6 months, a commitment has really helped him feel more a part of and so find some gratitude and meaning to his recovery, which he badly needed.

One thing that we have created recently is a visitors' book, which we ask any 'wandering' addicts who drop by in Cambodia to sign. On our creation birthday we aim to email all the addicts who have visited NA Cambodia thanking them for being part of our experience, strength and hope.

So more to follow I hope and good luck for carrying the message today wherever you are.

Yours in service,

Simon, Cambodia

Just Do It...

Bali APF, Convention and I

Firstly, I would like to thank you the host, for hosting the APF and Staging the Convention 2004. I truly enjoyed your hospitality.

Opening the door at 0900hrs the feeling is overwhelming. Meeting all in person built my enthusiasm and rejuvenated my energy.

During the APF meetings from the 24th to 26th I felt an overflowing richness as in bloodline in our bondage towards our common denominator, that is, to bush-fire the message of NA. It is a slow process, an ember without wind but with the element of the burning desire fuel with the courage to make the difference. All in one and one in all, We can... **"just do it"**.

Well here is "food for thought" in life sometimes you do not need money to buy, all you need to have is a heart of pure substance and the Good Orderly Direction of the Higher Power.

The God of small little things happened on stage on the 27th to 29th, that is, the Convention. The slogan 'Selamat Datang Freedom' beautified the unity in NA. It evoked laughter, tears and the sheer sense of camaraderie.

I am grateful to the Higher Power and yes NA. To me it is Big. It is awesome. One just follows the whispers of loving hearts and the directions of beautiful minds.

The magic wand in recovery works in a mysterious way. So here I come again: SSS Straight, Sharp, Short! It is a fulfilling moment yet to be cherished for the rest of my life.

I love you all. I'd love to see Bali again. Till we meet again, keep the ball rolling. Show up and keep coming back. It Works.

Peace and Unity
Nor - Singapore

Letters From Asia Pacific

Dear NA member,

This is Mohammed Q, your fellow from Saudi Arabia, I have about one month since I got to Jordan. Actually there is no NA group so I will start my self as NA recommended. So I want to tell every body to make him know that there is an NA member in Jordan. If you know any body want to live in Jordan he/she may help. I have some step that may help in establish new group in Jordan , please if you know some body seeking help in this Area of Asia give him my Email.

Mohammed, Saudi Arabia.

Salam Mohammed,

I am Nor an addict from Singapore. When I bumped into NA fellowship it is very hard but I never give up hope. There was one time for three months I attended NA meeting - there is nobody but me alone. That was 8 years ago. Today I am still struggling and the group shows improvement. Mohammed, trust your heart, trust the Higher Power and trust NA. I am very, very sure things will work out for you and the NA in Jordan. Do your thing right everything else will follow. Last but not least, it takes your true courage to change the things that you can.

Till we meet again, you are always in my heart.

Nor, Singapore.

I am Wajid an addict from NA Pakistan south region. could not met you all in APF Bali but our other part was present there. Irfan and Suleman were there from NA Pakistan north.

I read your loving and caring mail and I got courage to write some thing about NA Pakistan south for APF's news letter now. I know how poor my English is but as you offered support in your first letter, I am not feeling shy anymore. You will receive some info from us soon.

Keep coming back.

Wajid, Pakistan

Unity Day?

How about we organize a Unity Day so that we could meet and have a wonderful meeting?

Your RD, Mohd Nor suggested this event while he was in Bali.

It sound good to us!

Special Moments at the APF

I was particularly touched at the APF by the member from California, Kevin, who has no less than 36 years clean! To think that he got clean off the streets at Jimmy K's house, was very awe inspiring. For Kevin too, I believe it was his first trip outside the US and his humility at leading the way for all of us by his power of example was a blessing.

History of NA

The slides of the history of NA brought many of us to tears as we followed the miracle of recovery in the last 50 years. It was wonderful to share a little of the World Convention. Thanks to Tom Mc and Uschi from WSO for all their tireless one to one's and great message.

Please let us know at your APF Newsletter what's going on in your area!

...because

I can't. We can!

Kuala Lumpur still growing strong

A total of 23 members from NA Kuala Lumpur spent the weekend [5-6 July 2003] at a beach bungalow in the seaside town of Port Dickson for our Annual NA Vacation in conjunction with WCNA50.

Among the highlights of the much needed retreat was the World Unity Day telephone hookup on Sunday morning [local time].

It was most encouraging seeing many old friends again who albeit clean, have not been to meetings in a while.

Six members from a private treatment center who are relatively new to the NA program also joined us and were suitably attracted to the realization of how big NA really is worldwide and this realization also returned a sense of perspective to most of us there.

We were also fortunate to have John T from Minnesota, USA joining us - he is currently living in Penang for a year.

NAKL intended that this year's gathering would once again foster closer ties with one another and further cement the unity that we need; and also encourage members, especially those who have been away from the meeting rooms for a while to Keep Coming Back once again.

Our new group NA Terengganu – on the east coast – is now 1 year old. There is one meeting per week on Tuesday nights 8pm. Attendance there is somewhat shaky, with only two regular members keeping the flame alive. Its founder member regularly comes over to KL and informs us of the progress of the Group. As the Group is still in its infancy, they feel that registering this Group with WSO should take place at a later date. NAKL has been supportive by providing IPs and copies of the preamble in Bahasa Malaysia and plans to send representatives to visit the group sometime this year.

Japan 3rd Regional Convention 2004

This year we will hold our bi-annual Regional Convention. The theme this year is, "I cant , We can". It will be held **September 17th-20th**, at the National Memorial Olympic Center in Tokyo. There are flyers available, and the event is listed at the WSOs website as well as soon to be up on the APF Website.

Translations

The first draft copies of the Japanese Basic Text are being distributed for review, there are already some revisions required, but it is moving forward. This year brought another first for our Region, in co-ordination with the WSO we were able to translate a portion of the Conference Agenda Report. This is the first time the whole fellowship could share in the WSCs and world wide fellowships issues. We are making advances in service with the translation of basic service material. Some examples being the "group treasurers report" and the "service committee registration forms". We are hoping that by sharing these service developments with you all, that we can bring some assistance to our fellow APF member Regions. We thank you all for helping the Japan region of NA grow, and Higher Powers blessings to all.

Japan Region of NA

Japan Region has much exciting service news to share. Japan Region currently has 10 Areas with 85 groups, that hold 227 meetings a week. We recently had a sudden increase in the number of Groups in our Region. This was due primarily to the division of several larger Groups splitting into smaller Groups in more rural areas. Some of the Groups that devided were caused by the mixing of institutional meetings, or H&I panels, and regular NA meetings. ***A lot of the changes occured when the Japanese language "Guide to Local Service" was distributed upon translation completion last year.*** A clearer knowledge of Group service and NA service in general was gained by the whole fellowship. We have also increased the number of Regional delegate Alternates to 2 so that we may bring more service to the Japan Region from the APF and all Region level service activities.

Excerpt from Japan APF Report