

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM NEWS

Afghanistan – Aotearoa New Zealand – Australia – Bahrain – Bangladesh – Bhutan
Cambodia – China – Hawai'i – Hong Kong – India – Indonesia – Iran – Japan – Kuwait
Malaysia – Maldives – Nepal – NERF – Oman – Pakistan North – Pakistan South
Philippines – Saudi Arabia – Singapore – South Korea – Thailand – UAE – Viet Nam

A NETWORK OF NA COMMUNITIES

www.apfna.org

Issue # 44 - May 2017

A Note from the Editor

Greetings and Welcome to our 44th Edition of the APF News. It is with much gratitude and pleasure that I am privileged to introduce the members of our team; Mukam H, New Jersey USA, editing, policy & guidelines, Tim S, Australia, history & Did you Know?, David R, Beijing, China, editing, Roger S, Aotearoa NZ, Admin resource & final copy, Sumit D, Nepal, graphics, graphics & more graphics, Ryan U, Shanghai, China (our newest team member), and me, Phyllis S, Hawai'i, your newly elected newsletter Editor/Chair, who gets to collaborate & communicate with this premier team.

Of course without your input, none of this is possible. We welcome stories, suggestions, graphics, clean dates and generally want to know what you would like to hear. Feedback is always encouraged. You can reach us at: apf-news@nzna.org

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Do we have your milestone?

*We would love to include events along with your graphics or flyers if available.
Please submit to: apf-news@nzna.org

Welcome to our New Delegates and Trusted Servants



2017 Elected Trusted Servants

Treasurer (Admin)	Sushil P
Fellowship Development	Mohit A
Merchandise Chair	Carrie L
Newsletter Editor	Phyllis S

Asia Pacific Forum 2017 Highlights



- ★ Monday, March 6th to Thursday, March 9th, Shanker Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ★ Attendance: 45 seated around the table - an APF record!
 - 34 RDs, ADs and translators from 20 of our 29 APF communities.
 - 6 APF trusted servants.
 - 1 World Board member, 1 NAWS staff member, 3 workgroup representatives.
- ★ Also at the table: representatives from AfriCan and EDM zones, and Mongolia (unseated).
- ★ Agreement to send a Zonal Delegate to the 2018 World Service Conference:
 - Election process, roles & responsibilities, criteria, agreed on for Delegate and Alt Delegate.
 - Possible motions for Conference Agenda Report discussed.
 - Workgroup to support Delegate and create CAR motions formed.
- ★ 2017 Strategic Plan adopted (taking 3 x 90 minute sessions - 1 less than the previous year).
- ★ Sessions/Workshops:
 - WSC outline & NAWS Update.
 - Translations - how can we work smarter to get well-translated literature to addicts faster?
 - Community reports - providing solutions to the identified challenges.
 - History of APF.
 - The new book "Guiding Principles" and workshopping Traditions 1 to 3.
- ★ Fellowship Development:
 - Reports on recent trips.
 - Women's Fellowship Development workgroup formally adopted.
- ★ Elections - Treasurer, Merchandise Chair, Newsletter Editor and FD Coordinator were elected.
- ★ Documents approved:
 - Updated Orientation Handbook, Host Committee Checklist, Web, & Newsletter guidelines.
 - New Fellowship Development, Strategic Planning and Convention guidelines.
- ★ Policy on use of photos in the newsletter formalised.
- ★ 2018 APF meeting will be in Bangkok, Thailand (date to be confirmed).

Roger S, APF Secretary

I Found NA in Thailand

My name is Nat, an addict from Chiang Mai, Thailand. I haven't always been here though, My using days were in Los Angeles, California. I used on and off for 13 years. I would stop, just cold turkey stop. My abstinence didn't last long, a couple of years at most. Being egotistic, I thought I was finally OK, then life got mundane real fast; boredom kicked in. Thus, the vicious cycle turned again and again.



Until one day I had enough. I hated EVERYTHING, even drugs, but mostly I hated myself.

Drugs weren't working anymore and I didn't have the guts to end ME. So fine! I'll live. Despite NA getting started in Los Angeles, I didn't know NA then. I just existed without using and being hateful, so much so, I became numb. That path was lonely and was destroying me from the inside. My physical health was fine, I didn't use anymore, but my mind and spirit were in pure agony, which of course, I buried. I wanted to run far away, so I moved to Thailand. Here, I found NA.

I walked in the NA room a skeptic but I kept going back. I kept going back because each time I felt a little better than when I walked in, I felt a little less lonely. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months until I realized someone REALLY understood and I DO belong. The path to recovery isn't easy. We don't change our thinking overnight. My head is still tricky but I don't have to walk this path alone anymore.

I live where NA isn't widely known to local Thais. Even if there are meetings, the stigma of being an addict is so severe that it makes it hard for us to seek help, especially for women. There are hardly any Thai women in the rooms of NA. I know in my heart there are more of us who are still hurting out there. *Where are you sisters?*

My experience at the APFCNA-1 Kathmandu Convention was amazing. The convention gave us women special recognition and



welcomed us with opened arms and friendliness. This is a program for everyone regardless of gender identity. It filled me with hopes that one day the Thailand fellowship will be full of the natives and that women will feel safe to come together as we are.

In my using days, I lived in a city where there are hundreds of meetings a week, yet I had never stepped foot into one. Now, here I am, where local meetings in Thai are scarce and resources in Thai are limited. I have to believe that it is a grand design of something greater than me that I am here with bilingual ability and the willingness to serve. We can only keep what we have by giving it away, truly.

Nat A, Chiang Mai, Thailand

APFCNA-1



- 854 Registered Members



- 40 on-the-spot volunteers with 20 on committee workers



- 37 Newcomers under 30 days
- 35 Countries Represented





- Financial Success in all areas

NA Service: A Privilege



I heard about NA inside a recovery house and I promptly connected with the spirit of the NA message. Perhaps, I could hear the message because I had suffered enough from my addiction. I was twenty at that time. When I crossed 30 days of clean time, I was taken to an NA meeting from that recovery house. I had heard a lot about the NA meeting from other clients there. I got the 30 days orange color key tag at that meeting, which was an exhilarating experience for me. I continued to make meetings ever since, even after coming out from there. The NA program told me that meetings are a vital part of my recovery and I also found meetings to be very attractive. I just fell in love with NA and started loving everything about NA. There were only three meetings per week in my hometown back then. We formed a group and started to run another meeting. I jumped into the service of group secretary at that group when I had six months of clean time. This is still my home group after thirteen years.

I had heard a lot about the term “service” before coming to NA. This was one of the highly used words by politicians, religious gurus and by other people in society. But, this didn't have anything to do with me. All my focus was on my own obsessive needs and how to fulfill them by using all means and losing all the values and norms given by society. I was the example of the whole opposite of what service is all about, causing pain, suffering, and misery to my family and society all around.

I learnt the basics of NA service being in the group and had an interest to learn Traditions, as I wanted to do my best. I could hardly understand NA literature due to my weak command over the English language. I used to sit with the Basic Text and It Works How and Why with a couple of dictionaries to study. It would take me more than an hour to finish one chapter and I

would understand only half of that, however I would be very happy to learn that much too. This is when I realized the value of NA literature translation.

I was a very shy and closed person but being of service forced me to interact with other members. That helped me a lot to develop relationships with the fellowship and helped me to make many friends in NA. The local fellowship was quite young then, and groups and ASC were not stable enough, however the foundation had been laid. Nepal Regional Service Committee was just formed in 2005 combining five ASCs of Nepal. Nepal fellowship was growing rapidly and the message was reaching addicts at every corner.

After group level, I joined the service at ASC as RCM and represented our area at the RSC meeting. I was so much amazed and mesmerized to see members serving at that level and talking about the whole Nepal fellowship and sometimes about worldwide fellowship too. That helped me broaden my vision of NA service. The translation was the new project in RSC at that time. I took the service position of Translation Coordination Chair (TCC). We translated IP number 1 and it was published by NAWS as the first piece of NA Nepali literature. It was a really overwhelming experience for me. Now, I have come back in the service of TCC Chair after ten years, and we are translating the Basic Text, the Step Working Guide, Just For Today and many IPs. I love this service and it is now my dream to see NA books in Nepali. This will help carry the message to the addicts of Nepal in their own language and culture.

I involved myself in many more services in coming years that include ASC chair, PI Chair, Conventions services, workshops, campouts, one-day events, etc. Being of NA service always made me feel worthy and productive. NA Services always helped me connect with my Higher Power and provided me the platform to practice the spiritual principles, which I usually found myself unable to practice outside.

I started my service at regional level as secretary, then ARD and then RD. I was reluctant to serve at regional level before, because I thought I was not capable enough, and some parts of personal life were not allowing me. After about four years, one day I felt it was the time to move on. I believe that God's time will come in service too, as in personal recovery. My experiences in regional service taught me so many things about fellowship and NA service. That experience also helped me build up relationships with the members from different parts of Nepal. These relationships are the great source of courage for me.

I believe that Asia Pacific Forum (APF) has played a very vital role in the development of fellowship in Nepal. Meeting the people of APF and attending the workshop after APF in 2007 had set the turning point in my personal recovery and service commitment.



That indeed set the fire in the spark of my desire to be of service to NA. I could get the opportunity to attend my first Asia Pacific Forum Conference in 2014 as ARD. It was unbelievable to me that I was representing my NA community miles away from Nepal. I felt so worthy and privileged to find myself there. A once hopeless addict totally confined by fear, insecurities, worthlessness, had travelled that far to be of service to the NA fellowship. I got the opportunity to attend two more subsequent APF conferences and tried my best to be a contributing part of it. We have developed a strategic plan to help develop NA communities affiliated with APF and accelerate the functions of APF itself so that we can contribute to visions of NA service.

The experience of attending the World Service Conference (WSC) as RD was out of this world. I had never dreamt that I could ever be able to fly that far and attend WSC. I was amazed to see hundreds of trusted servants from all around the globe gathered just to carry the message. I realized that they loved and cared about NA so much. I also got the opportunity to visit the first meeting place, the home of Jimmy K, and Narcotics Anonymous World Service (NAWS) Office. To see the places where it all began and is being taken care of was an overwhelming feeling of joy and amazement. It was like making a pilgrimage. I felt

like my life is complete after seeing all these and being a part of it.



APF has just organized its first convention in Kathmandu, Nepal, which was hosted by Nepal fellowship. It was a long standing dream of APF to hold the convention, and Nepal NA community was very glad to get the opportunity to pay back some gratitude to APF by hosting this convention. Moreover, it was my inexpressible joy to serve as the liaison person between the APF convention sub-committee and the hosting committee. The convention succeeded greatly with more than 800-member participation from over thirty countries all over the world. The convention has created positive vibes in the Nepal fellowship and its signs have already started to be seen.

NA literature talks about being a productive member of society. I believe NA service is the most productive work I can do. I know whatever I do in NA services helps addicts find the NA message. NA service for me is the reward of being an addict. Service brings out the best in me and helps me to have respect for me. Service has been the main pillar of my recovery. I truly feel that NA service is the greatest privilege for me.

Sumit D, Dharan - Nepal

?????? Did you know ??????

In 2002, the APF was held in Byron Bay Australia. The meeting was significant because it marks the beginning of two changes.

First, it was the last time a large portion of APF meeting time was taken up with reading regional reports. Although hearing the reports from each region was a “feel good” session for all involved by providing us with a strong basis for connection, doing things together rather than hearing about what each region had done was chosen as the way forward. In fact, the first small group sessions took place at the 2002 APF and was given the thumbs up in evaluations. After 2002, APF annual meetings began providing workshops and learning sessions, all of which evolved to the

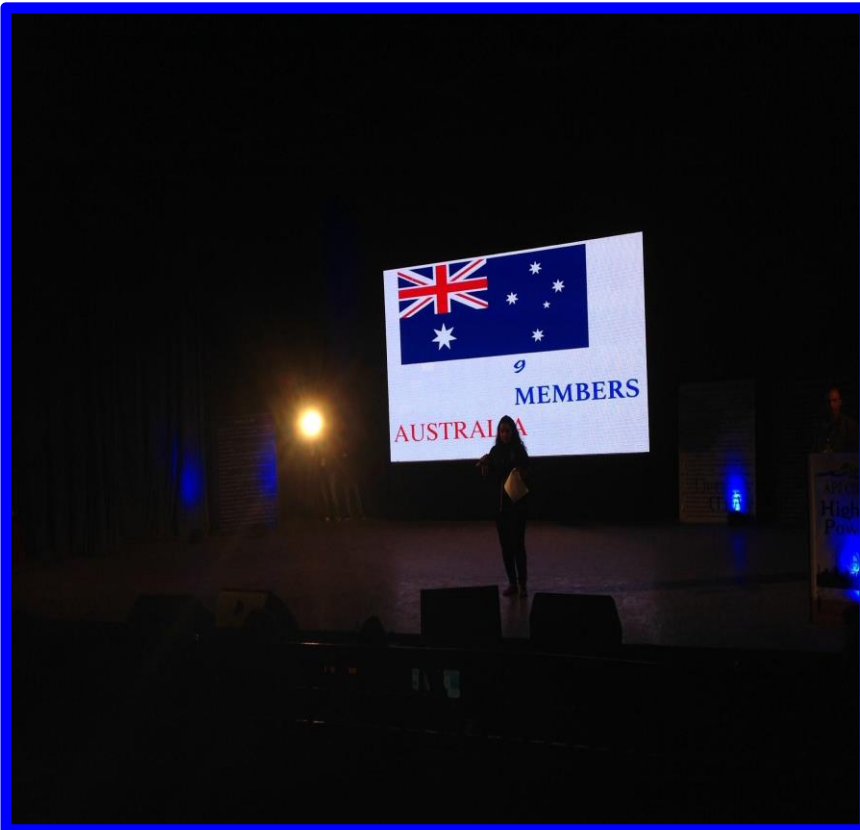
strategic planning process we have at the APF today.

Second, immediately following the APF meeting the Australian Region held their annual convention in Byron Bay. This convention was monumental for the Australian fellowship.

Attendance by so many APF participants helped create the feeling of a mini World convention. Many of these APF participants shared at the convention and local meetings throughout the entire APF.

Although holding the APF outside of Asia, the subcontinent or the Middle East meeting had not occurred before this 2002 meeting and will most likely

never occur again due to the financial impracticality. Australia will always remember when our neighbours in the APF came to our shores to share their strength experience and hope.



Tim S, Australia

Clean Dates ~ May to August



May

01 May 2006	Hasib Y	Bangladesh
01 May 2005	Keshav B	Nepal
11 May 1993	Joydeep M	India
17 May 1999	Mahmoud B	Iran

June

05 June 1991	Tim S	Australia
08 June 1992	Mukam H	USA
09 June 1995	Ronnie V	Philippines
18 June 2006	Xueli L	China
21 June 1994	Irfan	Pakistan
21 June 1979	Phyllis S	Hawai'i
25 June 1990	Deb F	Aotearoa NZ

July

04 July 2001	Reza A	Bangladesh
25 July 2004	Sharon K	Aotearoa NZ
25 July 2008	Choney	Bhutan

August

11 August 1997	Ian U	Thailand
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If you wish to share your MileStone in our newsletter, email

apf-news@nzna.org

Upcoming Events

Australia

Gold Coast Area NA

"From the Ashes To Unity"

23 - 25th June 2017

Camp Serenity ~ Log Cabin Camp

3360 Nerang - Murwillumbah Rd.

Queensland, Australia

Email: campserenity2017@gmail.com

Greater Queensland Area NA Convention

'Welcome Home Never Alone'

7 - 9th July 2017

St. Francis Parish Hall

47 Dornoch Tce.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Info: Alex +61 451 532



India

PACNA 3: (Punjab Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous) at Dalhousie - Himachal Pradesh

Dates: 15th, 16th and 17th September 2017

Venue: Hotel Grand View Dalhousie

Registration Slots:

Deluxe Suite Room on Twin Sharing; Rs 7500 per person or USD 115

Super Deluxe Room on Triple Sharing- Rs 6000 per person or USD 92

Off Site- Deluxe Room on Twin Sharing- Rs 4500 person or USD 69

The above prices include food, accommodation and the program.

Nearest Airports: Amritsar, Jammu or Chandig Nearest Railway Station ; Pathankot

Nearest Bus Stand- Dalhousie



Dear Members,
We are glad to inform you that Imphal Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous will be celebrating 20th years of service and dedication on 15th of June 2017. Words cannot describe how we have grown up, stayed focused to our aim and moved on even when the times ahead of us were hard. It is all because of the support, love and care of our loving fellowship. And to bring our membership together in the celebration of recovery Imphal Area Service Committee will be hosting the 7th Camp Out on 14th - 15th June 2017, under the theme "We are all in the same boat" at Retreat House Mantripukhri, Imphal, to encourage unity and fellowship among our members along with serving our primary purpose.

Registration

Single Room @ Rs. 2500

Double Room @ Rs. 2500

Dormitory @ Rs. 1500

Why registration is needed
As we all know that the 7th tradition encourages us to decline funding from other organizations, to maintain our group's focus on its primary purpose. We encourage our fellowship to be fully self supporting. The funds from registration will be utilized in paying the basic needs like catering services, lodging, hall hiring charges, printing & stationeries items etc. We are seeking your valuable support to make this event a grand success.

NB: For non-members registration, will be same as above registration slots

WORKSHOP

Merchandise
Raffles
COUNTDOWN
DANCE
MEETINGS
SHARINGS
Recovery

NOTE:

- > Registration charges inclusive of Food & Accommodation at the camp out venue itself. Attendees who wish alternate accommodation at Hotels will be at their own cost.
- > Attendees staying at the camp out site will be responsible for the safety of their personal belongings.
- > Attendees from outside Manipur should well inform to the camp out committee for any assistance to reach the venue (Contact details given below)
- > Please abstain from carrying any drugs or drug related paraphernalia at the camp out site.
- > Gambling is strictly prohibited inside the camp out venue.
- > Non-refundable once registered.
- > Request all the members to maintain the atmosphere of recovery.

The Venue

Retreat House, Mantripukhri
Imphal East-Manipur, 795002
6 km away from the Imphal city and situated at NH-39

Imphal Tuliha International Airport is the nearest airport about 4-5km far away from the camp out venue.

Nearest railway station is Dimapur railway station 213 km far away from Imphal, which links with Guwahati as well as many other major cities.

Inter State Bus Transport, Guwahati, 489 km far away from Imphal with a minimum duration of 12 hr and 36 min.
Nagaland State Transport Bus Stand, Dimapur, 213 km far away from Imphal with a minimum duration of 8 hr.

How to reach

Road Map

CONTACT US

CHAIRPERSON Bishwanath 08414569190	REGISTRATION Neelha 082558902490	HOSPITALITY Roni 08131090211	MERCHANDISE Rishithoi 09615790974	PROGRAM KC 09774039164
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DRUG PROBLEM? WE CAN HELP

CALL NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS 09856510378

IMPHAL AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE

Nepal

PAACNA-9

Pokhara Area Annual Convention of Narcotics Anonymous

Date: July 8, 9, & 10, 2017

Theme: New Way of Life

Venue: Shanti Nagar Banquet, Shanti Nagar Chowk, Masbar

City: Pokhara; Country/Region: Nepal

Registration Cost: 3500 Nepalese Rupees per person

Note: Registration includes food but not the lodging accommodation

For more information: Anand A. (+977-9805898486)

NERCNA 7

NERF Regional Convention (hosted by Guwahati ASC)

8th, 9th and 10th of September 2017 at Guwahati, Assam

Contact "Rocky" +91-9612186207

ECCNA (European Zonal Forum)

