



The Hollywood Times

November 2020

Vol. 5

SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP

WELCOME

This is our Fifth Edition of the **The Hollywood NA Times**. This month's Theme is *Sponsorship* Next month's Theme will be *Honesty*.

WE DEFINITELY NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FORM OF SHORT STORIES, ESSAYS, POETRY, ART, AND EVEN JOKES, ALL RELATED TO RECOVERY.

We would also love to hear any suggestions and/or concerns you may have .

Please contact us at:
tsjonny1NA@gmail.com

Jonathan S., Chair

Julia I., Co Chair

Nick G., Copy Editor



*Progressive Recovery Group
of Greater Hollywood
Presents*

"GIVING THANKS"

SPEAKER JAM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
DYNAMIC SPEAKERS FROM OUT OF STATE

6PM TO 10PM PST

6PM -12 STEPS

7 PM-GRATITUDE

8 PM-12 TRADITIONS

9 PM- GRATITUDE

ZOOM
MEETING ID: 927 7695 3383

*"One of the first suggestions many of us hear when we begin attending NA meetings is to get a sponsor."
Sponsorship IP*

Thank you to the following people for contributing to our November Newsletter. You are the best! Cindy R, Marty F, Dove S, Marc O, Susan S, Paul M, Nick G, and Julia L.

SPONSORSHIP

By Dove S.

As I approach 9 months clean, I continue to recognize this truth: that NA is a program of attraction rather than promotion. I needed to make the choice to want to be clean in order to have any chance. And though I wish I could have made it earlier, I'm glad I have now. What am I getting at?

As a newcomer, I didn't know that NA was going to work or that this life was possible. But I did know that I wanted to give it a shot. So when I met the person I sensed I'd ask to be my sponsor, and then when I finally asked him, I knew I had to do something i'd never done before... I knew I had to listen to another human being.

It sounds simplistic, but I vividly recall the first time my sponsor suggested I do something (that made no sense to me and I knew I could never do), and I recall realizing I was going to listen to him. And I did. And it changed my life.

My sponsor recommended I call three people after each meeting. "Get three numbers in each meeting and then call them the next day." It was the craziest thing I'd ever heard. Firstly, I don't use my phone to talk to people. I didn't want anyone ever calling me and I never called anybody. Also, they were strangers; weird strangers. Also, three per day? That's insane!

Since then, my sponsor has proven to be right on everything he's ever recommended I do. And it's not because I found the perfect human being who is a saint with foresight and who is never wrong... it's actually not even because of him at all. It's because of NA. It's because this addict has been through what I've been through. It's because this addict understands me, what I think and feel, how I want to avoid doing the work and how important the work is... because he's lived it. The brilliance of my sponsor and the positive effect he's had on my life is a quality of the brilliance of NA.

I am able to cause less damage to my family. I'm able to act on spiritual principles and work on my defects (I'm on step 6). I'm able to believe that things are possible for me even when I think they're not, because I have seen enough to now be faithful.

Although I don't know how I'll ever be able to sponsor anyone, I believe one day I will, because he told me I will. He has shown me that impossible things are possible. He has made me believe in "Faith" (which I was allergic to my entire life). He has passed on what he received that worked for him, and it's working for me.

He isn't perfect. He isn't all-knowing. He isn't even special. He is one addict helping another. He is my sponsor... **Hersh**

MY SPONSOR

By Jonathan

I first heard my sponsor share at the Sunday night BHS meeting over 18 years ago. I thought he was gay and at the time I felt I needed a gay sponsor especially if I was going to share my deepest personal experiences with him. Therefore, based on what he shared, I felt he would be a good choice as my sponsor. I really don't remember asking him to be my sponsor or what he said at the time. However, two things became very apparent to me after we met several times: one, he was definitely not gay, and two, he was absolutely the perfect sponsor for me.

For 18 years we shared our hope, strength, and experiences with each other. We laughed and cried together. I attended his wedding and helped him move out of his house when he divorced. He was there for me when I relapsed, sitting silently beside me as I fell asleep after a horrible few days of using and coming down. And although it was completely out of his way, he took me home every Sunday night from the BHS meeting, not because I asked him to, but because he truly loved people and if that meant driving miles out of his way to be with someone, then so be it.

He loved people and many times made friends with those others might shun or exclude. He was not impressed with position, nor wealth, nor influence, but truly accepted people where they were for who they were.

As a sponsor, he never told me what to do, but I warranted his suggestions and advice. I don't believe people can truly love unconditionally – perhaps a mother for her child – but my sponsor came the closest to exemplifying this kind of love more than nearly any other person I have ever met. He never made any demands or placed unneeded conditions /restrictions on our relationship, but rather uplifted me and encouraged me to be the best man I could be, one day at a time.

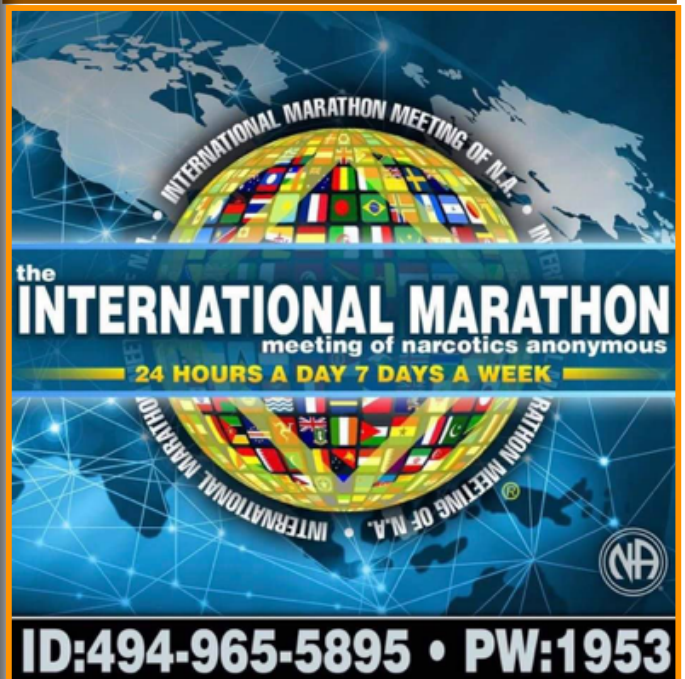
My sponsor was a kind, sensitive man – he often cried when sharing, and actually stopped sharing for a while as he thought people were getting tired of his weeping.

(Con't next column)

I admit I rolled my eyes more than once when the tears started to flow. And yet, I would give anything today to hear him tear up as he shared like he always did – from the heart.

I don't believe my sponsor ever understood what an incredible man he was. Flawed? Of course, as we all are. But he could not see how loved he was nor the gifts he gave to those he met. He was a man of conviction and although he suffered through throat cancer, I don't believe he ever missed a meeting even when he was going through the hell of radiation/chemotherapy. He always showed up – always had a hug – always had a smile – always had a kind word. He was of service to NA at nearly every level and actually enjoyed it!

When we are able to hold meetings in person again, I will so miss seeing him sitting in the front row, second seat at the BHS Sunday night meeting. Yes, he sometimes fell asleep, especially after his first bout with cancer, but he was always there, soaking in the atmosphere, surrounded by those he loved. And he loved Narcotics Anonymous. What a gift... my Sponsor, **Dan H.**



HAIKU
I love my sponsor
Her name is **Maria D**
And she values me

Newsletter Contributions:
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THANKSGIVING

THE SPONSOR

*By Anonymous
Submitted by Susan S.*

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He descended a bit more and shouted to a man on the ground,

"Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man on the ground below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 And 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west Longitude."

"You must be a sponsor," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the man, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "Everything you told me is, I believe, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've probably delayed my trip."

The man below responded, "You must be a Sponsee. "

I am," replied the balloonist, "But how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect other people to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault!"



MY SPONSOR

By Marty F.

I met my sponsor years ago at a meeting I led. This man came up to me afterwards and thanked me for my share. He had an aura about him that was all love. I probably had around 7 years clean at the time, and realized I had never met this man. A few years later I asked him to sponsor me. I trust my sponsor with my life, enough so I appointed him as my medical health care representative. He has helped me work the steps and made me a better person. My Sponsor is **Tom K.**

This Thanksgiving, tell your SPONSOR how thankful you are to have them in your life.

**WANT TO BE OF SERVICE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?
PAROLEE NA ZOOM MEETINGS NEED YOU!**

Please contact Lee publicinfo@todayna.org (805)319-2820

MY SPONSOR

By Cindy R.

My sponsor is great! She is responsible, works hard, and is of service.

She has a solid program and spiritual practice. She loves and welcomes people. When I'm crazy, she understands and always makes me feel better. She helps me find my way to the solution of whatever problem I may have. We have traveled this journey of recovery for almost 18 years. My Sponsor is **Maria D.**

CALLING YOUR SPONSOR

By Susan S.

I have had the same sponsor since I had 8 months clean. When I asked her to sponsor me she said that I needed to call her every day for the first 30 days. I did this, sometimes relieved if the answering machine would pick up. "Hi, just checking in." But it got me into the habit of calling her and that was the point. As well as taking me through the 12 steps she has always been there to advise me throughout my recovery. I feel very lucky. I feel like she is the perfect person to be my sponsor and I hope everyone finds that. My Sponsor is PAM

"My relationship with my sponsor has been the key to gaining trust in other people and working the steps. I shared the total mess that was my life with my sponsor, and he shared that he had been in the same place. He began to teach me how to live without the use of drugs." Sponsorship 1P

PERSPECTIVE

By Marc O.

I asked my sponsor to be my sponsor, and he told me that he needed to meditate on it, because he had so many sponsees at the time.....He made me wait for a whole week. Of course, he remembers it differently. LOL.....perspective.

Greater Hollywood Area Narcotics Anonymous

QNA-SoCal

Rotating Literature Format



Meeting ID 341 174 000
no password

Friday 3pm pst

Quarantined Meetings



Daily
10am pst

Mon.
Weds.
Fri.
3pm pst

ID 100 258 932
no password

ID. 341 174 000
no password

Southern California

"The Recovering Addict has much to be thankful for." Happy Thanksgiving

**WANTED: AREA
VICE-TREASURER**

The Hollywood Area needs a Vice-Treasurer. The Vice-Treasurer assists the Treasurer in all duties and be willing to serve as Treasurer if elected the following term. There is a five(5) year clean time requirement for this position and you have to know how to add and subtract!!!! Hollywood NA Area meets every fourth Sunday of the month. Talk about a great way to be of service!!!

NEXT AREA MEETING: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 @ 3:30pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/97954308971>

Password: hollywood

Join The Greater Hollywood Activities Committee

Second Tuesday of the month.

Time: Aug 11, 2020 08:30 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84277843228>

Meeting ID: 842 7784 3228

Marc: 323-481-2247

FREEDOM BEHIND THE WALL

If you're interested in participating in 'Sponsorship Behind The Walls ,' Tom K. is the chair and they meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

Zoom ID; 825660214

password is 782320

Approximately 20 Inmates are requesting Sponsors. This is a terrific way to be of service and give to others "what has so freely been given to us."

Greater Hollywood Area Narcotics Anonymous

QNA-SoCal

**Rotating Literature
Format**



**Meeting ID 341 174 000
no password**

Friday 3pm pst

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

GREATER HOLLYWOOD AREA NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

QNA-SoCal

Daily

Just For Today

10am pst

**Meeting ID 100 258 932
no password**

QNA-SoCal



**Basic Text
Step Study**

**Monday
3pm pst**

**Meeting ID 341 174 000
no password**

Saturday Late Night

Saturday 10-11:15pm

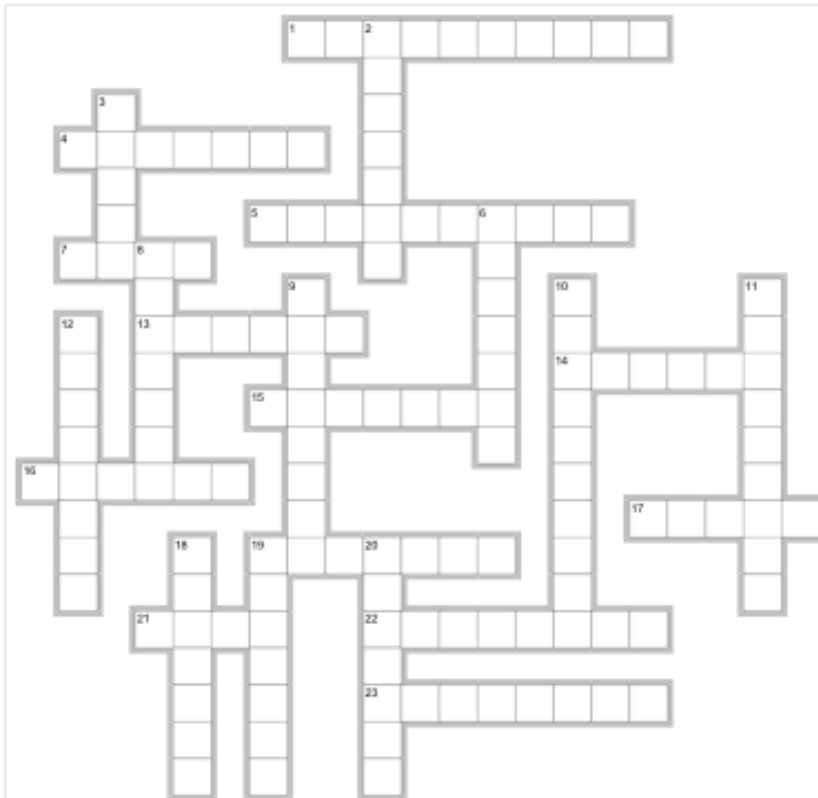
BHS Hollywood Recovery Center
6838 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90028

<https://zoom.us/j/87316093878>

No Password

Can't sleep? Join us!

“What Is The NA Program?”



Learning to use our literature helps us stay clean, the solutions are always in there.

Across

- 1. "The _____ of recovery is protected by our Twelve Traditions." pg 11
- 4. "Our _____ is a way of life." pg 12
- 5. "Narcotics Anonymous is a _____ of men and women who are learning to live without drugs." pg 9
- 7. "Surviving against all _____, we are addicts who meet regularly." pg 10
- 13. "Meetings provide a place to be with _____ addicts." pg 12
- 14. "We don't have to _____ for the limitations of the past." pg 11
- 15. "We share what we have learned about living _____ drugs."

- 16. _____ meetings are for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem." pg 11
- 17. "If you are an addict and have found this book, please give yourself a _____ and read it." pg 12
- 19. "Our _____ of recovery is based on our experience." pg 10
- 21. "We realize that there is _____ for us at last." pg 10
- 22. "We want our place of _____ to be a safe place, free from outside influences." pg 11
- 23. "The _____ is the most important person at any meeting..." pg 9

All of the words in the puzzle can be found in the "Fifth Edition Basic Text" Chapter Two pg 9 - 12

Down

- 2. "The program works a _____ in our lives." pg 11
- 3. "Anyone may join us, regardless of age, race, sexual identity, _____, religion or lack of religion." pg 9
- 6. "N.A. is a nonprofit Fellowship or _____ of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem." pg 9
- 8. "Living this program gives us a relationship with a Power greater than ourselves, _____ corrects _____ and leads us to help others." pg 12
- 9. "The Twelve Steps are _____ tools that make our recovery possible." pg 10
- 10. "This is a program of complete _____ from all drugs." pg 9
- 11. "We find that our lives steadily improve, if we maintain abstinence from mind-altering, _____ mood-changing _____ and work the Twelve Steps to sustain our recovery." pg 12
- 12. "Addiction is not a _____ condition from which there is no recovery." pg 10
- 18. "Our meetings are a _____ of identification, hope and sharing." pg 11
- 19. "A _____ happens when two or more addicts gather to help each other stay clean." pg 11
- 20. "There are no _____ attached to N.A." pg 9

“I compared the timing of when to get a sponsor to drowning. I needed that life-saver/sponsor immediately!” Sponsorship TP