



The Hollywood NA Times

October 2020



Vol. 3

SERVICE SERVICE SERVICE SERVICE

WELCOME

This is our third Edition of the **The Hollywood NA Times**. We hope you enjoyed our first two Editions and that you are making it a priority to read **The Hollywood NA Times** each time it is published. **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

Our literature says that our primary purpose in Narcotics Anonymous is to "Carry the message to the addict who still suffers." We do this by being of **SERVICE**. Thank you Cindy R, Tony Mac, Marc O, Nick G, and Julia L for being of **SERVICE** to NA via our Newsletter.

FROM OUR LITERATURE...

What does "Being of Service" mean in Narcotics Anonymous?

Our literature says that our primary purpose in Narcotics Anonymous is to "Carry the message to the addict who still suffers." We do this by being of service. Service comes in many forms and can be undertaken by anyone. Often NA members will share about "being of service" in our regular meetings. When we are new, it's easy to wonder "exactly what does that mean." Though some NA service centers (such as the World Service Office) have special workers who are paid, the majority of tasks completed for NA are completed by individual members who volunteer their time. Meetings don't just happen; we have to make them happen.

Why should I get involved in NA service?

This is easy to answer as "We only keep what we have by giving it away." Our greatest tool for carrying out our primary purpose is the NA group, and without individuals doing service, the NA group would not survive. In our Basic Text it says that "Our survival is directly related to the survival of the group and the Fellowship." We have also found that service is an integral part of personal recovery in NA and allows us to receive the full benefits that this program has to offer. Our literature also says that "The therapeutic value of one addict helping another is without parallel." You've probably heard NA members share how good it makes them feel to be involved in service. One of the things we learn in our recovery is that the core of our disease is self-obsession.

(Con't next column)

Another thing we learn is to provide selfless service to NA. We often hear members share about the positive feelings they have as a result of volunteering their time to be of service to NA. Ultimately, being of service to NA is one way many of our members choose to demonstrate their gratitude for all that NA has given to them.

SERVICE

By Marc O.

Why? In the beginning, service was what I was supposed to do. Plain and simple, period... the end.

Looking back, it seems unrealistic for newcomers to have selfless motives for much of anything... I just wanted to stay clean and I believed you when you said service was one of the tools to help me. I put my faith in NA. I put my faith in you.

Working the steps, making mistakes, working the steps, judging everyone's motives, working the steps, giving up, working the steps, looking at my part, working the steps, everyone is doing the best they can, working the steps, what kind of person do I want to be, working the steps, forgiving myself, working the steps, learning humility, praying for God's will and the power to carry that out, what does anonymity mean, trying to carry the message, attraction not promotion....

The journey continues...



**THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL
PHONE LINES COMMITTEE OF
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS PRESENTS:**



**THE FIRST VIRTUAL
SERVICE WORKS**

SERVICE TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY



PUBLIC INFORMATION
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



WEBSITE
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



PHONE LINES
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

PRESENTATION BY PUBLIC RELATIONS, WEBSITE & PHONE LINES

QUESTION & ANSWERS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD 2020
ZOOM ID: 496 317 0908 PW: life

FOR INFORMATION CALL CLYDE B. JR. 213 421 5893



I'm Listening

By Chris V.

The morning sweat drooling on the sheets, now noon-ridden
has the ringing sound of wanting life to shut, but
the day was already newly borne,
wedging beams of *au demain* from a skylit darkness that dreamt a yestereve long-aged,
a vicious cheer of Sun peels through--
the human curse of perception I tried to blotch,
a speedy stupor now throwing a fuzz of caustic sweat into my eyes
the body of water that's soaked the bed has no finish line
at least, not one too curt to reap its joy...

What you said, though, of love of your words became the sponge that
sopped the suicide dripping from the ducts in between my eyes cracked and blown,
hope becomes the place of survival
You say it doesn't have to end now

when last night's tizzy recalls
a reflection darkened as I approached it, your drowning voice beckoning me:

"Listen you, who clings to walls made of
cellophane wrappers from packs of yesterday's gum, dried under the wooden panels of your
secrets

Come off it,
that noose around your neck,
and let your shoulders go --
the weight of the world isn't yours, not anymore"

You told me to live,
and I survived.

LGBTQ COMMITTEE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NA

PRESENTS:

SKELETONS OUTTA DA CLOSET

LGBTQ SPEAKER JAM

OCT 24TH 2020

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

Zoom ID: 415 798 8632

MARC O 13234812247 CHRIS P 19514415457

The Global Love Bus



Every night of the week

8pm EST	7pm CST
5pm PDT	1am BST

Monday: Topic Speaker
Tuesday: Speaker
Wednesday: Step/Tradition Study
Thursday: Speaker
Friday: Living Clean Study
Saturday: Speaker
Sunday: Wheel of Freedom

Zoom ID: 482-311-4818 Password: notrolls



SERVICE is an Action Word

Serve as a Trusted Servant:
Secretary/Treasurer/GSR/
Key Tags/Birthdays/Greeter/
Coffee Maker/Alternate
GSR/
Literature/Clean-Up/Set-Up/
Phone List

Serve as a Trusted Servant
at Area or Regional Level

Contribute to 7th Tradition/
World Services/NA
Newsletter

Speak at a Meeting/on a
Panel

Share at a Meeting

Call a Newcomer/Another
Addict in Recovery

Bring food to a Meeting

Give your number to a
Newcomer

Take a Newcomer to coffee/
Another Recovering Addict
to coffee

Buy a Newcomer The Basic
Text/Step Study Guide

Sponsor another Addict

Hug another Addict

Listen to another Addict

Go on a 12 Step Call

SERVICE

By ANONYMOUS

Since I have been in Narcotics Anonymous, I have been somewhat of service; mostly in my home group. I was of service, not because I thought it would help me stay clean or for any altruistic reasons. I was of service, because I thought it was what was expected of me and it might make me look better in the eyes of my fellow NA members. Quite frankly, being of service was a chore. I didn't enjoy it, although I did get a kick out of being a secretary of a meeting or the chip guy simply because it was a way of saying, "look at me being of service" without actually saying it! However, all of that changed on Thanksgiving Day 2019.

For some reason, I decided to volunteer for the BHS Thanksgiving Marathon meetings. I figured I would go for an hour, show my face, clean up a little around the food area, listen to a speaker, and then leave. I had always thought that only the saddest, loneliest people in NA attended holiday marathon meetings. So my one hour would say that I was being of service, but not so sad or lonely that I "needed" to stay for more than one meeting. Boy, was I in for a surprise!

As I sat listening to the speaker, I started looking around the room. I watched the trusted servants effortlessly doing their thing and the meeting coordinators running the meetings as smoothly as possible. After SIX hours of the Thanksgiving Marathon meeting, I was completely absorbed in the love, attitude of giving, and fellowship that permeated every meeting. I was amazed at the selflessness of those who brought food, set it up, and helped serve, as well as the overt gratitude of nearly everyone in attendance. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I had a bonafide, hallelujah-inducing, shout-to-the-rooftops spiritual awakening!

My whole attitude changed, not just about how I felt or viewed service work, but about Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. I actually felt a part of NA - an actual integral member - for the first time in my "career" as a recovery addict. For the first time in the many years that I had tried to get clean and stay clean, I felt as if I belonged. I cannot really explain it in any other way than it was a true spiritual awaking. My whole attitude about service completely changed. I realized that being of service had very little, if anything, to do with me, but rather it had everything to do with giving back to that "which so freely gave to me." I realized having a servant's heart meant doing whatever was needed in order to keep the doors open - just as the trusted servants of the Thanksgiving Marathon were doing.

After processing my spiritual awakening and what it truly meant, I realized there were several tenets that I would use to guide my new understanding of being of service. For me, being of service must mean serving in anonymity as much as possible. I realized that because of my ego, I cannot tell others about my service in or outside of NA. As soon as I talk about what I do for others or for NA, the focus of the service becomes about me - not the service itself. I also realized I must be of service without expecting any "thank you's" or pats on the back. I realized that I must be of service to honor my God and to serve NA. I must be of service, because it is a privilege and it will help me get out of "self." I must be of service simply because I want to. And finally, I must serve because...

being of SERVICE will help me stay clean.

RESERVATIONS: THIEVES IN THE TEMPLE

"Moving beyond our reservations, we accept our addiction, surrender, and experience the hope that recovery offers." IWHW Page 16

By: Tony Mac (3/19/1988)

I am a changed man. I am willing to open my mind to the spiritual possibilities of NA. I have been changed before. Just as I begin to make amends for that life, by moving on to Step Three, I suddenly have reservations about turning my life over to God's care. My mind began obsessing. I got all this clean time and I'm still obsessing over some hurt, pain, abandonment, humiliation, betrayal, worry and stress issues. What the hell, man! These feelings just popped out of nowhere. Why now? I hate when I take myself way too seriously. Thinking about those feelings can wake my disease up long enough for it to do some damage. Acting out on a lack of faith will fill me with an expectation of some approaching disaster. Spiritual confinement isolates me and robs me from the benefits of the program. Until I know for sure what's going on, I am alone. I know how to be that. I will intellectualize and rationalize the darkness until it gives up its secrets, because something is coming out of the void.

Reservations keep me from working and applying Step Three. Reservations are little demons in my head telling me I won't have peace of mind if I don't do it my way. I want and crave the softer and easier way. I have all this clean time and I watched a lot of my friends just up and run away. The people I love fail me. I see heartbreaks, the loss of my father, concerns about my finances, stress over my job, anxiety attacks, worrying about my health and this damn worldwide pandemic.

I'm stuck with a whole lot of difficulties. I'm stuck and acting unmanageable, using my uncanny ability to blame God, because of my fear to accept responsibilities for my failures.

NA taught me I can choose a selfless way of living. I was confused and hurt until NA explained my primary purpose. Going to meetings, praying in the morning, being of service, and talking and listening to recovering addicts removes and keeps my reservations arrested. My ability to get honest with myself is restored. I don't have to trust my thinking. That's where my disease lies. I was blessed with a spirit that refuses to quit and find purpose. NA ignites that fire. Instead of taking my feelings so seriously, I believe through some sort of faith that even though it feels impossible, I know that God will love me and care for me. I fought my way through writing, studying, and prayer to have an understanding of faith. My faith is a relationship. It's a relationship with God from seeking as I invite Him to help me to stay clean no matter what my experiences are. I found out that through those clean-living experiences, He will act as my loving father. I convince myself through prayer that God is not punishing me. I have experiences that He directed me, protected me, and lead me to peace, because I stayed clean no matter what. I can become selfless and use my "keep coming back power" to turn it over at any time. I'm ready to look under the bed and face the monster that lives there.

Even though I am always afraid, I have the power to do the footwork with the gratitude that is now embedded in my soul, thanks to the recovery process of Narcotics Anonymous.

I don't have to take my feelings seriously. Accepting that means I am ready to take on a whole new level of living on life's terms and grow the hell up.

I am a changed man. There's something different about me since Step Two. I feel it. I have been changed before. I can hear the guiding voices of NA say "Take my will and my life. Guide me in my recovery. Show me how to live."

That Third Step Prayer directs me and changes me into something different. I've become a different man. I found that life is fragile. My life is fragile. I am ready for a change.

I am no longer willing to let those pains and conflicts from my past control me. I'm going to continue to experience God's will. I want more of God's Will. Surrendering to His Will means finding peace and learning to be at peace with peace. I will continue to stand in faith for the rest of my life. I am not going to give up on finding peace. I love this world, my world, because it feels balanced thanks to Step Three.



**INTERNATIONAL
MARATHON MEETINGS**

**ZOOM MEETING
4949655895**

**24 HOURS A DAY!
7 DAYS A WEEK!**

NA WORLD SERVICES NEED YOUR HELP!

As you probably know, NA World Services has been financially affected by the global pandemic. . Even before the crisis hit, we were discussing how to shift our financial model from one that relies upon literature sales to a more sustainable model that depends upon member contributions. It's a huge shift and we know it won't happen overnight, but over time.

One way members can help is to consider making a recurring monthly contribution to World Services: www.na.org/contribute. Some of us contribute the amount of our clean time each month, some more, some less. In February, 50 members had recurring contributions. As of this writing, there are more than 500. Our first goal in the journey to become self-supporting through member contributions is to increase the number of recurring monthly contributions to 1,000 by the end of October.

We recognize that not everyone is able to contribute financially. Some of us contribute more through service or sponsorship. Thank you for doing your part whatever that is. We appreciate everything that members do to carry the message and grow NA. That no addict seeking recovery need ever die from the horrors of addiction.

NAWS NEWS

NAWS has an instagram account:

www.instagram.com/narcoticsanonymous

We have exciting news to announce: NA World Services has launched an Instagram account. You can find us at www.instagram.com/narcoticsanonymous_naws. We were hoping for a simpler user name, but "narcoticsanonymous" and all of the variations were already taken. The user name of the account may change in the future if one of these options becomes available. Regardless, you will be able to find the account by searching for "NA World Services," "NA," or "Narcotics Anonymous."

Since ours will be a business account, it must be public, according to Instagram policy. That means if you are on Instagram and you choose to follow World Services' account, your account information will be visible to others. If you have anonymity concerns you could make sure your name and user name do not mention a last name. Or you could choose not to follow the account and simply click through regularly.

We see Instagram as a fun and easy way to announce events and deadlines, post pictures or video clips, and share your local NA content. If you have a picture—no faces please—or a short video clip about NA you'd like to submit send it our way: socialmedia@na.org. We can't promise we will post everything we receive, but if the image or video is high quality, preserves member anonymity, and seems like it would have wide interest in the Fellowship, we might. Let us know what you think!

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

New IP: MENTAL HEALTH IN RECOVERY IP #30.



WANT TO BE OF SERVICE? PAROLEE NA ZOOM MEETINGS NEED YOU!

Please contact Lee

publicinfo@todayna.org (805)319-2820

*Co-Host *Monitor for Zoom Trolls *Take Attendance

SURRENDER TO SERVICE

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84277843228)

Meeting ID: 842 7784
3228

Marc

323-481-2247

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!!!

SPONSORSHIP BEYOND 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 50 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."

NA PHONELINES NEEDS YOU

Even though All Slots are currently filled, one volunteer is covering several slots and would like to give up the Wednesday 8am-Noon time slot. You must have at least six(6) months clean. Phone Line Meeting: 4th Sunday of each month 9am via zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6816380901>

SERVICE

The Newsletter needs your help! Please write a one to two paragraph essay/testimony/story and send it to us for publication. Next month's(November) Theme is *ACCEPTANCE*. Please Send your Essay to:
tsjonny1NA@gmail.com

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Saturday 12-1pm

Bourgeois Pig

5931 Franklin Avenue

Angeles, CA 90026

(in the back room behind the curtain)

<https://zoom.us/j/637627775>

Password: circlepig

What terrific meeting where everyone gets to share in the round robin format.

THE REAL DEAL

Friday 8-9:35pm

Hollywood Recreation Center

1122 Cole Avenue

Los Angeles 90038

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/
82661784341](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82661784341)

Password: 396683

Although this meeting can sometimes attract a large crowd, it is the place to go to celebrate clean time/Birthday's. The Speakers are excellent!

BASIC TEXT - LINE BY LINE

Mon-Fri 1:30-3pm

Cafe Tropical

2900 Sunset Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90026

<https://zoom.us/j/6699133088>

These meetings are small and intimate and offer a truly great way to study the Basic Text. Everyone reads one line of the selected readings for the meeting and then have the opportunity to share. Check it out!



SERVICE WORD SEARCH

By Cindy R

B	L	O	A	L	S	Y	T	U	D	R	N	E	L	C	A	K	E	S	K
I	T	M	Z	O	M	O	C	F	W	V	Q	R	U	H	L	O	X	W	E
B	R	E	I	M	Z	A	R	E	T	U	I	M	L	I	C	B	A	R	T
L	Z	R	S	A	N	E	P	L	O	M	V	J	S	P	E	A	K	E	R
A	P	C	L	E	A	N	U	P	Z	I	S	H	E	S	Q	X	I	W	S
W	O	H	O	X	C	O	F	F	E	E	B	S	R	E	G	H	P	J	M
E	N	A	E	I	X	R	T	A	B	R	O	A	X	Q	L	E	A	R	O
M	O	N	Z	R	T	U	E	Q	I	A	X	T	E	R	O	F	F	X	A
B	V	D	A	X	U	N	I	T	Y	D	A	Y	N	H	A	S	E	U	P
I	E	I	M	F	Z	X	A	R	A	O	M	F	U	I	B	W	C	N	E
H	A	S	I	O	E	I	B	E	L	R	I	S	P	G	D	F	O	W	T
S	P	E	N	X	R	F	H	A	G	X	Y	O	H	E	I	L	K	Q	G
A	R	I	K	E	T	O	X	S	P	O	N	S	O	R	S	H	I	P	A
Q	U	G	L	M	I	W	P	U	H	D	G	F	N	B	A	D	M	O	R
U	I	R	T	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	C	L	E	P	Z	T
N	Z	E	I	O	W	H	F	E	F	O	A	V	L	T	S	K	U	C	O
A	R	E	A	C	H	A	I	R	I	V	B	O	I	M	N	W	Z	X	A
J	F	T	L	A	B	N	D	G	H	F	M	Q	N	F	R	E	A	Z	O
Z	O	E	M	S	V	D	O	A	K	W	F	C	E	A	I	O	X	H	L
G	S	R	L	E	M	I	S	L	I	K	U	E	S	D	F	H	U	A	P

COFFEE
CLEANUP
CHIPS
CAKES
GSR
GREETER
AREACHAIR
LITERATURE
PHONELINES

TREASURER
SPONSORSHIP
HANDI
UNITYDAY
SPEAKER
RSM
MERCHANDISE
ONEONONE

GOING NUTS DURING QUARANTINE?

Come get a dose of
recovery at

MIXED NUTS

Hollywood NA LGBT Zoom meeting.

Wednesdays at 8PM

Meeting ID: 403-135-305

Password: JFT2020



Narcotics Anonymous

NEW NATIONWIDE
VIRTUAL MEETING FINDER

+1 (833) 716-0080

Call and press two, or text your zip code to find a virtual
meeting in your time zone happening soon/now!

"I serve, because it gets me out of my own head
and selfishly, I just like myself better when I do."