



*The New  
oldstyle NAWAY*



## Your fellowship MAGAZINE

*Share...*

*...and be shared with...*

*Like it was when NA was new and  
young and life-or-death intense:  
You matter to us so we will tell you the  
truth as we know it with nothing held back*

HELLO,

Welcome to the first issue of the NAWay we've had for about 22 years. Some people will probably say that statement is just my opinion, which is true, yet the statement is a fact as well. I wrote the motion that established the NAWay, I was elected co-chairperson and became the editor, the other co-chair people fell by the wayside for their personal reasons, I remained, persevered, worked hard, included many others—anyone who wanted to help. And we, Narcotics Anonymous, had a "...monthly magazine on recovery from addiction: the NA Way..." . Then, as so often has happened in our history, it was taken from the fellowship's control and given to World Services. What it has become seems little more than a venue for some politically correct party-line.

It has lost its freshness, its Spirit, its uncompromising Recovery Orientation. In my opinion it, like just about everything published by that entity, is unbridled propaganda masquerading as recovery and service information. But that's not really important, what I am committed to do here and now is revive the spirit of the original NAWay.

This is your magazine. Make of it what you will. I will edit it as I did the original. All article will be anonymous, they will stand on the merit of their content. I will edit out bad taste, profanity, and ideas not in keeping with the philosophy of recovery from addiction found in the 2nd Edition of the Book Narcotics Anonymous, modified by the spirit of the little White Book newly revised. You may submit articles to [metzrd@myway.com](mailto:metzrd@myway.com) by e-mail. I will return a PDF file of the exact form in which it will be published here. If my editing causes you to withdraw the article it will not be published.

My service duty is to develop a quarterly newsletter in "***the real-original conception***" of the NAWay. As a trusted servant that is what I shall do. Several of you know well what those publications were as you received them at the time. Several of you were even original contributors. I am sure you will help me stay true to this task.

Each issue will have an article from the first year's issues and that will run us for quite a long time. Please send articles; short or long. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, sentence construction or any other form of expression. I will stay true to your spirit and improve the communication of your submission. But only if it needs it, my goal is not to edit but to share recovery with those who seek recovery and share effective methods to give recovery to others. JM

...a word from my sponsor:

We come to this program from homes and apartments, offices and schools, treatment centers and jails, parks and gutters. We come from many different places, but they all share loneliness, pain, and fear. Somehow addiction draws us together in Narcotics Anonymous.

We came to this program for many different reasons. Those of us who stay, do so for the same reasons--to stop using and stay clean. After we've actually stopped, and the fog has cleared a bit, most of us take a look around to see what this program is all about. We start trying to do the things we see those around us doing. Eventually we come to the Twelve Steps and try to work them the best we can. The result is a degree of freedom that we never have known before. We find freedom from drugs and the obsession to use them; and in time a bit of freedom from that part of ourselves that has been destroyed.

We're taught that we can only keep what we have by giving it away. So we seek out and give our hand to other addicts who have problems like ours and want help. Usually one of the first things we try to do when we're working with a newcomer is to get them to a meeting. After all, that's what worked for us.

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## **A Path Through the Confusion**

It doesn't seem like too long ago that life was unbearable because of the confusion going on in my head. Today there is just as much confusion, but I know what to do with it. It's called turning it over. This for me has to be done on a daily basis.

The confusion I feel today seems to be centered in the controversy within our Fellowship. Much of it deals with the language and terminology being used to define recovery and some of it concerns things going on in service. I used to jump right in, because my disease told me I wasn't powerless over such things. I rode right back out the doors of N.A. on a cloud

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*"It's called  
turning it over."*

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of controversial confusion. I thank my God that I made it back alive. Today I have a different outlook on it all.

Today the only way for me to survive the confusion is to live "as best I can" the spiritual principles of our program. I have to pray to God as *I understand Him* to take my will and my life, to relieve me of self enough to be used as an instrument. I have to make a commitment to the program on a daily basis, without reservation. When I do this, it seems like the confusion is a lot easier to live with, because I know why I am here. I'm not here to add to the confusion, but to try to help make some sense of it all by sharing my recovery patiently and with loving tolerance. I pray to my Higher Power that it all is serving a purpose.

*"A Path through the confusion" from the Jan '83 NAWay*

Why is this so? What is it about our meetings that's so special? Usually, about all we can say is that there is a feeling there, a feeling of strength and hope and love; an atmosphere of recovery. Our meetings are very special to most of us. They're a place where we feel safe; a place where we fit in. But what keeps it that way? One would think that any time people like us get together the results would be chaos. Groups of self-centered, self-willed, isolated individuals just can't meet together peacefully and safely; but we do. The reason that we can is that we have Twelve Traditions that help to keep our groups "safe" and free.

For most of us, understanding of these Traditions comes slowly over a period of time. We pick up a little information here and there as we talk to members and visit various groups. It usually isn't until we get involved with service that someone points out that "personal recovery depends on N.A. unity", and that unity depends on how well we follow our traditions. Because we hear about "suggested steps" and "no musts" so often, some of us make a mistake and assume that this applies to our groups the way it applies to the individual. The Twelve Traditions of N.A. are not suggested, and they are not negotiable. These are the rules that keep our fellowship alive and free.

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## Reflection of a Meeting

When will the energy we put into the battle of personalities be used through the healing power of principles?

I have no life without recovery and my personal recovery depends on our unity. My love for you is for a very selfish reason. You are all I have. You are an addict like I am.

Please see through my awkward words and allow the feelings behind them to enter your hearts. Tonight at a meeting, I saw the healing power of empathy being pushed aside by the darker powers of ego and self-will.

I tried to surrender to two first steps in the beginning only to relapse from denial and confusion. I have found personal recovery in N.A. working just one First Step, based on the disease concept of addiction. This has replaced the denial and confusion of the past with acceptance.

Do you remember my first meeting; the emptiness, despair, pain and worthlessness that sat in my chair? You reached out to me and held me with your eyes, for you were looking into a mirror that reflected your own pasts. Tonight were your eyes seeing only an enemy?

For the first time in my life of sick causes and non-existent beliefs, there is a pure, simple program of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that must be preserved or surely I will die. As the months have gone by, our N.A. meeting has been in labor to give birth to this simple, separate and distinct philosophy. Somewhere in time and growth your beliefs and mine separated and came in conflict. I saw the results of our conflicting ideas in the eyes of the new person tonight sitting in the chair you and I each sat in once. Those eyes held confusion. Will it lead to denial and relapse?

I pray for my God to soften my words and extend my message to those who seek it. For I have no recovery unless there are new people to share my recovery with.

I pray for you with love.