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Prayer-Spiritual or Religious

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Anonymous

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SUBMIT!! SUBMIT!!

SUMBIT!! SUBMIT!!

norvananewsletter@cprna.org

Newsletter meets every first Saturday of the month at 6pm at 1-(857)-232-0357, conference code 235215

Artwork/poetry/doodles N.A. related recovery experiences

Kind Komments or Koncerns ☺

WCNA 37 – **The Magic Is Still Real**

**August 30, 2018 through September 2, 2018
Orlando, FL, USA**



WCNA 37 – The Magic Is Still Real

PRE-REGISTRATION

In addition to helping us better plan WCNA, here's another incentive for pre-registering: **All members who pre-register by 31 July 2018** (without cancellation) **will be entered in a drawing for two (2) full convention packages, including registration and all WCNA special event tickets!** (Does not include pre-reg merchandise)

Click [here](#) for a downloadable and printable pre-registration form and hotel reservation form.

Click [here](#) to pre-register.

WEBSITE

We know that some members experienced challenges with transaction delays on the first day of registration sales. We have worked to try to resolve these challenges, and believe that the technical glitches have been ironed out. Nonetheless, it is still possible that you will experience a delay, as there are numerous people all over the world using the pre-registration and hotels sites at any given time. Please be patient and **DO NOT HIT THE BACK BUTTON** right away. It may take a few minutes for the system to process your transaction.

WCNA 37 HOTEL OPTIONS

While we realize many people are accustomed to booking rooms on their own, it really helps WCNA when you book rooms in our room block. Here is some encouragement to pre-register and book rooms in our room block: **If you pre-register and**

book your hotel in the WCNA room block by 31 July 2018 (without cancellation), **you will be entered into a drawing for a FREE, THREE-NIGHT STAY!** We will randomly select two pre-registrants and cover their room and tax charges for the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights of WCNA.

Click [here](#) for a downloadable and printable pre-registration form and hotel reservation form.

| [Portuguese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Russian](#) | [German](#)

Click here to go to [hotel reservations](#)

HOTEL SUPPORT NUMBER/CONFERENCE DIRECT

The support telephone numbers for the hotel options site are toll-free within the US: 844.460.9824, or from outside the US: +1 704.419.8426 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 9:00 pm Eastern Time).

EVENTS

We are excited about the entertainment we have lined up for this convention. All of the details have not been worked out on some of the entertainment special events, which is not unusual for a World Convention. We will add information about the events as they become finalized. You need not wait to register. Special event seating assignments are determined by the date of pre-registration. This means that the location of your seat for ticketed events is driven by the registration date, not by

the date you purchase the tickets. The key to getting the best seats is to register early.

[Thursday Blues Lunch](#) | [Friday morning Jazz Brunch](#) | [Friday night Comedy](#) | [Saturday Concert](#) | [Coffee Houses](#)

POST CONVENTION CRUISE TO CUBA

We have also contracted to offer a 5 day/4-night cruise to Havana, Cuba, aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines, "Norwegian Sun," departing Port Canaveral, September 3rd, 2018 and returning September 7th, 2018. For more information see <http://montrosetravel.com/wcnacruise>

SPEAKERS

Interested in being considered as a WCNA **main speaker or workshop speaker**? We'll make that information available on the website 10 October 2017.

BEING OF SERVICE

Want to participate in the WCNA 37 **speaker evaluation** process? We'll make that information available on the website 10 October 2017. Additionally, we'll have more information in the spring of 2018 on other ways you can be of service for WCNA-37.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The Orlando Convention & Visitors Bureau is creating a webpage highlighting local attractions and restaurants in Orlando (Disneyland, Universal Studios, Sea World etc.) as well as other information about the city. We will post that link as soon as it is available.

VISAS

Please refer to <https://www.usa.gov/visas#item->

[213289](#) for information about the visa process to enter the United States. We try to do what we can to assist members with information, and we can provide a general letter of invitation to attend WCNA 37 if needed. Please contact wcnavisas@na.org for more information. Please contact wcnavisas@na.org for more information.

ORLANDO CONDITION AFTER HURRICANE

We have received telephone calls with questions about the condition of the Orange County Convention Center and hotels after the hurricane. Orlando is "open for business" as they say. There was some damage to several areas of the city, and the power system was temporarily disrupted, but by and large Orlando has come through it to the other side. See <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/breaking-news> for additional information. There are still some areas that require repairs, as we understand it, but we do not anticipate any disruption to the WCNA experience for our members because of the recent hurricanes.

NAR-ANON

In the spirit of cooperation, not affiliation, WCNA 37 will provide space for Nar-Anon to hold meetings throughout the weekend in the convention center. Nar-Anon members will need to register for WCNA and wear a WCNA badge to attend the coffeehouses, events and dances.

See you in Orlando! Note: NA World Services, is not affiliated with any of the service providers being utilized for WCNA 37.

The Orange County Convention Center-West building located at 9800 International Drive,

Orlando Florida, is the primary location for meetings and events.

Orlando is the most visited city in the US—and it's a great fit for an event like ours. Information about Orlando and surrounding areas, and about the Orange

County Convention Center is available at: www.visitorlando.com

and www.occc.net/Attendee. Stay tuned for more information on pre- and post-WCNA activities.

Recitation of the Lord's Prayer- Spiritual or Religious?

For the better part of my clean time, which has been since March 25th, 2002, I have been in deep conversations about the recitation of the Lords Prayer to help close our Narcotics Anonymous meetings. I have spoken to people in and out of the state of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia to name a few. I have spoken to people internationally and

"Thank you for the phone call and request for the information regarding the use of the Lord's Prayer to close an NA meeting. At one point in our history the Lord's prayer was used extensively by groups throughout Narcotics Anonymous to open and (or) close their recovery meetings. This is no longer the case. Some groups still chose to use the Lord's Prayer but they are a minority.

Most groups feel that the Lord's Prayer is too religious in nature. NA of course is a spiritual fellowship that is not religious and is open to all types of beliefs or non-beliefs. The Lord's Prayer is strongly aligned

from the mid and west coast. Most groups prefer to leave it out for fear that the newcomer feels a religious tone to the meeting and will leave because of this feeling. However *quite a few years ago* the question of the appropriateness of the recitation of the Lords prayer was brought up via phone and email to the WSC. Their reply was, and I quote....

with Christianity. If an NA member is a Muslim, Hindu, Jew, Buddhist, agnostic, or atheist, or of any other denomination he or she still qualifies fully to be an NA member but would most likely be offended (or at best get the wrong idea) by the reciting of the Lord's Prayer at a meeting.

Experience has shown that NA members can find a way to set an example of an opening or closing which is Higher Power centered rather than self-centered. As you know, the diversity amongst our membership allows us to grow in recovery and we realize we do not always have to be right or get our

own way, rather we are in meetings to help ourselves and others find recovery in Narcotics Anonymous.

The decision to use any specific reading or closing is a matter of group autonomy in accordance with both our Second and Fourth Traditions. Groups are free to use whatever opening or closing the group conscience decides upon, as long as it is in keeping with the spiritual principles of unity, compromise and compassion. The important consideration, which has resulted from collective experience, is to open or close the meeting in spiritual unity. If individuals of any group become unduly concerned with pleasing themselves, the common welfare of the group members and the primary purpose of the group can be lost.

In the current era, most groups choose to use the Serenity Prayer, Third Step Prayer, or Gratitude Prayer when opening or closing their recovery meetings. These are perceived to be a lot less religious in nature than the Lord's Prayer. Ultimately,

Step One

"We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable."

The struggle is and was real. Relief from my addiction came when I stopped fighting. If I didn't get and stay clean, NOTHING, nothing else was going to work. Having group texts, and FaceTime didn't do it for me either. I needed real your face to my face type of time. I was so angry and so mean that only a few addicts could handle me. As far as convincing me that I was an addict, I had to work step one WITH A SPONSOR three times. Why three times? I had a lot of outside issues. I literally lost my step work once, I lied once and barely finished it and once my sponsor was not satisfied with my progress. Thank god for her and for the fellowship. I wasn't intent on changing, and hear me newcomer, for almost three to five years in the program. I perpetrated for a long time like I did but I wasted time fooling

of course, our Fourth Tradition insures the freedom of the group to reach their own decision on this matter through group conscience.

In closing, I wish you the best in your ongoing recovery from the disease of addiction, and in all of your efforts to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Feel free to contact us again if we can be of any further assistance."

In closing, as the editor of this newsletter, I can only share that I have landed on a Higher Power and I am comfortable meditating, praying, and depending on that power. However, I never wish to turn away the newcomer because of my belief system. I know today that it is okay to be confident in my beliefs and in my convictions. That is called integrity. However, when I use those beliefs to force my thoughts on others it is self-righteousness. These are just my humble thoughts.

Please, please, please respond here with kind comments, thoughts or concerns about this matter. Let's love on each other and get a loving discussion going. We are all one and here for each other at norvananewsletter@cprna.org.

myself. New possibilities started happening after awhile in the program however. New relationships with strong women, new service commitments I would actually keep and new life choices. I just started to wake up not so frenzied day by day.

Physically I used food to cope so my obesity was affecting my heart, bones and body due to sluggishness. I was taking medication for depression (not a narcotics anonymous issue by any stretch) and was filling my anger and sadness hole in the gut with love and acceptance slowly but surely. I didn't want to go back to the psyche ward in Lynne Massachusetts where I was from, nor to the lover I had there that beat and raped me regularly, nor the life of constant using. I did not really grow in my recovery until I started taking even some responsibility for my life instead of blaming my mother and many others. I have to be careful because just when I feel I'm being honest, I am being manipulative with others. I am, as the text states, a "great one for manipulating the truth" to fit my sick needs. However, the problem cannot fix the problem, so I seek more steps and the programs solutions. At one point in the program I had a lot of friends and service commitments, but that didn't and doesn't equal recovery, and I had to lose jobs because of my attitude to learn that.

The program was working for many of you and I needed to realize that all of me needed to change, not just what felt easy changing. I stopped marking the program Susan-Cotics Anonymous, picking and choosing what parts of the program I wanted to apply, and surrendered to the program, which is the steps. This program is not magic. I had to want to change and it took action to be able to stay clean and somewhat happy.

For me any day clean is progress for sure, the real proof in the program is with fifteen years clean my willingness to continue on the steps with a sponsor, go to meetings and help someone without wanting something back. This program works man. If it does for me, it can for you. NO addict needs to die from the horror of this pain and misery, and working Step One on into Step Two afforded me days into months clean, on into years. I am so grateful for Narcotics Anonymous.

Events

Know of an NA event in the C&P Region that's not listed? Email events@cprna.org

Please include date and time of event, full address of event location, event host and area, suggested donation for event, and flyer. Please submit all flyers in .pdf format. To ensure your flyer can be used the limit for the size of the flyer is no greater than 1mb. Allow up to 1 week for your event to be posted.

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
	<i>Washington DC Flyer</i>
	<i>CPRCNA XXXIII Elections</i>
<i>Jan 18 2018 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM</i>	<i>Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Alexandria VA Flyer</i>
	<i>C&P Region Hosts: Autonomy Zonal Forum</i>
<i>Jan 27 2018 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM</i>	<i>Montgomery Hills Baptist Church, Silver Spring MD Flyer</i>
<i>Jan 6 2018 02:00 PM - 05:00 PM</i>	<i>CPRCNA XXXIII Nominations Arlington Central Library, Arlington VA Flyer</i>
<i>Jan 14 2018 06:00 PM - 10:00 PM</i>	<i>CPRCNA 32 Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City Maryland</i>
	<i>Jump Start To Recovery Group: Night Time Is The Right Time St. Luke's Center,</i>
	<i>Apr 13 2018 - Apr 15 2018 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM</i>