



C&P Region of NA phone line: 800-543-4670

DC LINK

December 2020

Message of NA: *"...that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom."*

Primary Purpose: *"...to carry the message to the addict who still suffers..."*

Basic Text - 6th Ed. -

Step 12

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

After completing the first 11 Steps of Narcotics Anonymous, we are now ready to begin the last and final Step of the 12 Step program. By this time in our recovery, we have acquired a spiritual awakening from working all of the previous Steps. Now it is asked of us to spread the message of experience, strength, and hope to our fellow addicts, as we continue to practice the principles that we've learned on our journey of recovery. We persist on, knowing that as we abide by the principles of the program, we will acquire even more strength, growth, and personal freedom. We are now equipped with all the tools necessary to face life on life's terms, expecting only the best to unfold in our daily lives. We have learned and lived the importance of applying the spiritual principles of the program. We have now become aware that as we continue moving forward in hope and faith that good will prevail, then we will succeed on our journey. An immense amount of opportunities are available to us, as we strive to achieve only greatness on our path. We move forward, never again to look back at our past failures. We have become secure with ourselves, with our lives, and with our sure course to victory. Now it's time for us to share with our fellow addicts all of the strength and awareness that we've gained on our path. From us sharing the message of experience, strength, and hope, our fellow addicts will gain the opportunity to succeed on their own journey. As we spread the message, the still suffering addict will gain the necessary tools to overcome the difficulties and challenges that they encounter. We now have the opportunity to give back what was so freely given to us. We get to give other addicts all the unconditional love that we personally thrived on in our own journey. Not only will we gain a higher sense of self-esteem, but we'll also be extremely blessed in the process. Our old ways of a self-seeking nature transforms into one of love and caring and sharing. We will continue to grow even that much more in our recovery. A new life of caring and love will enlighten us to a new realm of the wonders of this marvelous existence. As addicts continue to help each other in their recovery, nothing becomes impossible, and the many miracles of the program thrive to a greater extent. Personally, after I completed the 12 Steps, while working an active 12th Step, the growth process really took hold like never before. Not only was I helping others in their recovery, but I was also helping myself in the process. I consistently had to bring to mind all the spiritual principles that I've learned on my journey to be able to share it with the still suffering addict. People came to rely on me to support them in their recovery, and that is truly a great feeling.

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Tradition 12

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

Here in Narcotics Anonymous we have one promise - "freedom from active addiction." Members who were a part of the writing of the NA Basic Text can affirm that some other promises were considered, and eventually discarded because we felt we did not need to make any other promises. It was time to let the truth about recovery be known. The point was made that freedom in recovery takes many forms and but all these forms are dependent on one thing: freedom from active addiction. In the process of recovery, what these words mean grow to mean freedom from all the avenues that addiction can take, even if we are totally abstinent from all chemical drugs. We come to acknowledge our powerlessness in other areas of our life: sex, money, prestige, fame, obsessions, gambling, anything we do to excess that creates problems for us by distracting us from reality.

Principles involve hope, surrender, acceptance, caring and sharing, honest, open-mindedness and other positive elements that help us build a new life. Personalities involve personal attack, selfishness, gang mentality, rumor, gossip, character assassination and close-mindedness.

Principles revolve around what is being done to benefit others. Personalities revolve around who gets the credit and how it will affect us directly in some way. Amazingly, 'principles before personalities' has been used to justify personal issues because that is the way they appear to us when we are obsessed. It is up to our friends and sponsors to help us see through our illusions. How does it work? "Those who keep coming to our meetings regularly stay clean." Directly or indirectly implies anything else would be promoting NA. "If you want what we have to offer and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps." If our meetings are not surrendering to the Steps and Traditions, there is no atmosphere of recovery. This is not attractive. By allowing newcomers to see our recovery, we become attractive. We do many things to promote unity within Narcotics Anonymous. Occasionally, by promoting unity we begin to promote our Fellowship. We need to be personally responsible for the way we allow society to see us if we choose to let society know us as NA members. Customs and routines give us positive ways to handle things that come up from time to time. Our use of the word 'tradition' goes slightly beyond the dictionary definition. We apply it to mean that the interconnected group of principles reinforcing and combining to give us a whole much greater the sum of individual parts. Our Traditions are really a spiritual network that helps us get along with each other while fulfilling our mission to stay clean and help others.

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Concept 12

"In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government."

Selfless service is an essentially spiritual endeavor. Our Twelfth Step says, in part, that "having had a spiritual awakening," we individually "tried to carry this message to addicts." Our collective service efforts arise from that same spiritual foundation. Having experienced the results of this program in our own lives, we join together to carry the recovery message farther than we could individually. NA service is not about forcing our will or our ideas on others; rather, it is about humbly serving them, without expectation of reward. This principle underlies all we do in our groups, service boards, and committees. The Twelfth Concept reminds us that we ourselves have experienced recovery only because others put this selfless principle into action before us, taking the time and the care to carry the NA message to us when we were still suffering from active addiction. In service, we express our gratitude for the recovery others have shared with us by carrying ours to others. Nothing could be further from the drive to rule or direct than this spirit of selfless service. Our groups were created because we found that, alone, we could not "stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live." In the same way, our groups have joined together to create a service structure, a cooperative effort designed to help them carry the message further than they could carry it separately. The service structure has not been created as a way for some groups to force others to do their bidding. Rather, it has been developed to combine the strength of our groups to better fulfill necessary services which usually cannot be fulfilled well, if at all, by individual groups: developing and distributing materials that share our message in print, providing information about NA to the general public, transmitting our message to addicts who cannot attend meetings, and supporting new groups and new NA communities. NA service is the cooperative effort of trusted servants receiving guidance from the groups, not a rule enforced by a governing body. The process of joining together to create the service structure is an expression of our groups' humility. Separately, they can do far, far less to fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose than they can do together. In the same way, the various elements of our service structure each play their own particular role in the broader Narcotics Anonymous service plan. All the elements depend on all the others for their effectiveness; when any one element attempts to act as an agency of government, rather than a vehicle for service, it strains the ties that bind us all together, threatening our fellowship's overall effectiveness in fulfilling its primary purpose.

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December 2020 Anniversaries & Acknowledgements Congratulations All!!

DC Area NA meetings are held virtually or closed until further notice. CPRNA Virtual & Phone Meetings : District of Columbia

Did you know? You can also dial-in by phone to most Zoom meetings. Use any of the below phone numbers. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID and Password. When on the call, use *6 to mute/unmute and *9 to raise/lower hand to share.

Table with columns: Meeting Name, Day, Time, Status, Web Meeting Link/Phone #, Meeting ID, Password, Additional Info. Rows include Sunday Night Spiritual, Joyful Start, Steps to the Courthouse, Jump Start to Recovery, Ultimate Weapon Group, Daily Principles, Stone Soul Recovery, Jump Start to Recovery, Yellow Brick Road, One Step At a Time, Help Somebody, Better Way, Women's Step & Tradition, STEPS ON THE HILL, Illness In Recovery.

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Contact DC Link: DC Area Newsletter | PO Box 9863 Washington DC 20016 or dclinknewsletter@gmail.com Submit your service perspectives, Step, Tradition, Concept and Recovery Experiences Submission Deadline: 3rd Monday of each month DC Link On-line http://www.cprna.org/our-areas/news/district-of-columbia-area/

DC AREA SERVICE

Meets 1st Saturday of every month Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St. SW

Admin. Body meets at 10:45am Full body meets at 12 noon Names of newly elected DCASC trusted servants will be posted in September newsletter

- Chair: Joan H. Vice Chair: Darryl J. Secretary: OPEN Asst. Secretary: OPEN RCM: Gloria M. RCM ALT: Earl J. Treasurer: Tecoy W. Asst. Treasurer: Michael J. COC Rep. William W.

DC Area Rep. to CPRNA Program Sub Committee: Vanessa G.

DCASC Subcommittees:

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Meets 4th Sat. at 116 T St. NE 3:00pm Main Conference Room Chair: Sranda W. Vice Chair: OPEN.

Special Events Meets 3rd Sat. of every month at Dorothy Heights Library 10:00am Chair: Robyn R.N. Vice Chair: OPEN

Newsletter Meets 3rd Mon. of every month at Lamond Riggs Library 6:00pm 5401 South Dakota Ave NE Chair: Tammy F. Vice Chair: OPEN

Literature Meets 1st Saturday of every month Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St. SW 10:30am Chair: Eric W. Vice Chair: April C.

Policy Meets 3rd Tues. of every month at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 6:30pm 5301 North Capitol St NE Chair: Eloise C. Asst. Policy Monitor: Deboria A.

Public Relations (PR) Meets 1st Sun of every month at SOME 2:00pm 71 O St NE Chair: Marie W. Vice Chair: OPEN

Release Form: This signed release form must accompany all submissions. The undersigned give the NA Fellowship any of its agent's permission to publish the original written material I have submitted and also grant full unconditional release from any liability arising from its use. I understand that my material may be edited or may be published in whole or in part in another NA publication other than the "DC Link". I understand that sending my submission electronically indicates my agreement with the terms of this release.

Signature: _____ Date: _____