

STRAIGHT HOPE

The Montgomery Area Newsletter...a meeting in print

\$\$ Priceless \$\$

Volume 75

PO Box 8214 Gaithersburg, MD 20898

OCTOBER 2023

Letter From The Editor

Hi Family!

My name is Melissa M. and I'm an addict. Fall is my favorite season of the year. The days may be shorter but the weather is sure great! Likewise, the month of October is a significant time of harvest. But first let me say upfront that I don't know anything about farming. However, if **Good Orderly Directions** are the foundation of our program, then N.A. members are the imperfect seeds. And when

any seed is planted in healthy soil they tend to take root, and grow from dark places. When I first got here the disease told me I was buried, but after being here awhile the steps told me I was planted instead. And like seeds our growth of recovery is cultivated: when we pray, attend meetings and don't pick up; when we take **suggestions** from our sponsor and other experienced members; and most importantly when we do the necessary work to stay clean and recover. My predecessors told me; Melissa, the elevator is broken, take the steps. When we are **Honest, Open-minded and Willing** it's equivalent to light water and oxygen for spiritual growth. The fruit of our labor is our spiritual growth. Our daily inventory is the actual pruning, and the blessing is we get to both grow and die at the same time. When we prune the bad fruit in our lives on a daily basis, our self centeredness dies but we keep growing in positive directions. So, if you want what we have to offer and if you are willing to make the effort to get it, our literature says you are ready to take certain steps. Welcome to your season of harvest. **Keep Coming Back!**



Our STRAIGHT HOPE Newsletter Subcommittee Provides Opportunities to Flex Your Self-Expression



We meet on the 4th Sunday @8pm. Meeting ID: 876 1298 6083 PW:749698

[Click here to attend the Newsletter Subcommittee meeting!](#)

MANA Newsletter Archive:

<https://www.cprna.org/our-areas/news/montgomery-area/>

Email Art, Articles, Anniversaries & N.A. Announcements to:
straighthope@cprna.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!

Step of the Month

Step 10: *"We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."*

With Step 10, I try to make a daily habit of self-reflection and quickly resolve mistakes I make as soon as possible. I've found a great benefit to me to honestly examine and critique my behaviors and make restitution as soon as possible. No matter how much I've changed and grown as I work the 12-Step program, I still make a lot of mistakes; I am human. Step 10 spot check inventories offer me a way to monitor my attitudes and behaviors and make amends on an ongoing basis. I try to reflect on the part I play in difficult situations and respond in a more constructive manner. I've become more thoughtful choosing my words with others in an attempt to avoid confrontations as a result. The more I learn to live in harmony with other people, the more I realize the value of maintaining and improving all my relationships. I write about every day in my ongoing journal about different situations in my life, including struggles and accomplishments. Usually, my writings just read like a diary, but when I make mistakes or get involved in conflicts, I write about them in detail. I often discuss these incidents with my sponsor and try to improve my character. This helps me sort out problem areas and navigate more smoothly through relationships and decisions in my life. I need to admit my wrongs and make amends for any misdeeds to anyone I've harmed as soon as possible. This practice has helped me sort out my hurt feelings and resentments and hopefully become more mature. Step 10 helps me adjust my behaviors so hurt feelings don't pile up and linger.

- Ben C.



Tradition of the Month

Tradition 10: *"Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."*

Tradition 10 is designed to protect the reputation of the 12-Step programs from becoming involved in any arguments, fights, or controversies, even ones that seem like good causes or worthy endeavors. The goal of Tradition 10 is to keep the message of recovery simple, clear and on target with our primary purpose. We can't afford to risk the program's reputation, survival, and well-being of members over an issue not directly related to the program's message of recovery. That goal should always focus on staying clean and sober and helping others to recover. Certain issues might seem related to staying clean, sober, and helping others until we take a closer look. An example might be supporting the organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). What could be more important than our mothers and more relevant to recovery than the crusade against drunk driving? However, Tradition 10 makes it clear that the 12-Step recovery programs have no official position regarding MADD. Our primary purpose is not to support mothers nor crusade against drunk drivers. Prospects to 12-Step recovery might not have had the best of relationships with their mothers or they might feel unwelcome to the program if they were ever arrested for drunk driving. MADD solicits donations from the public and has recognized leaders. What if a scandal hit this organization? How would 12-Step recovery's reputation survive if it endorsed any outside issues including MADD? Tradition 10 even makes clear that the 12-Step program has no opinion on the best way to recover, but rather the 12-Step programs are a path we follow and works for us.

Distraction from the primary purpose and having opinions on related and unrelated issues would risk alienating members, especially the newcomers. Survival of the fellowship is more important than any cause.

- Ben C.



Announcements

“Solo Por Hoy” and “Beisbol” have trusted servant positions open.

Clarksburg Jail has opened up for H&I! We need members for the Women’s Meetings. Go to the H&I meeting to volunteer! H&I meeting: 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 pm on Zoom - Meeting ID: 822 2271 6888; Passcode: 216705

NA WORLD SERVICES NEWS

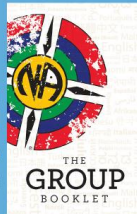
nawsnews

SEPTEMBER
2023

For the complete
NAWS News:
www.na.org/nawsnews

important dates and announcements

The Group Booklet has a fresh look and a footnote added about virtual meetings
www.na.org/basics



WCNA 38

Washington, DC • 29 August–1 September 2024
To receive registration, hotel, and ticket sales information: www.na.org/subscribe



July issue of Reaching Out has been posted
www.na.org/reachingout

The NA Survival Kit: Bundle of step-working material from Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides*. 120-day notice is posted here:
www.na.org/fipt

what can I do? ways to get involved in the work

Issue Discussion Topics for this cycle

Two are ready to workshop:

- Gender-Neutral and Inclusive Language in NA Literature
- Dealing with Disruptive and Predatory Behavior

www.na.org/idt

H&I Basics survey

Collecting ideas to revise H&I Basics.
www.na.org/survey

Help with the work

Fill out the focus group volunteer form.
www.na.org/survey

Conference Participants web meeting

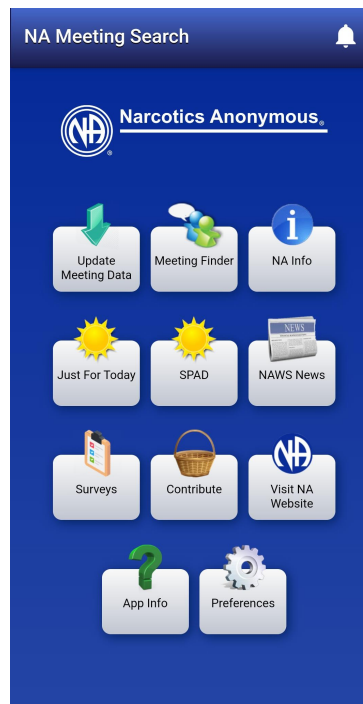
23 September, 11:00 am PDT

Get the APP!

There are many apps you can download onto a smartphone to help you in your recovery.

Try looking for “NA Meeting Search” or “BMLT Search” to download these useful apps.

Let us know what you think! Email us at straighthope@cprna.org if you know of another app that you find useful in your recovery!



Living Miracles

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Years</i>
10/01	Iman S.	Talking Heads	5 yrs
10/08	Carol S.	Let it Shine	1 yr
10/08	Cecily F.	The Alternative	9 yrs
10/10	Rhonda V.	Glad to be Alive Steps	24 yrs
10/10	Aaron W.	Life On Life's Terms	24 yrs
10/10	Jaime B.	Life on Life's Terms	39 yrs
10/11	Henry P.	Never Alone	20 yrs
10/11	Flemming J.	The STAR Group	25 yrs
10/12	Kevin C.	Making A Difference	7 yrs
10/12	Lee M.	Off the Beaten Path	24 yrs
10/14	Eileen K.	Off The Beaten Path 2	35 yrs
10/15	Charlie G.	Today's Recovery	6 yrs
10/15	Vivian M.	Acknowledging	6 yrs
10/16	Brian L.	Oasis Group	1 yr
10/20	Carolyn S.	Live and Let Live	2 yrs
10/25	Flemming J.	STAR Group	25 yrs
10/26	Tasha G.	She Do Recover	9 yrs
10/27	Lizzie M.	Live and Let Live	14 yrs
10/28	Shelley M.	Gut Bucket	4 yrs
10/30	Stefon	Beachcombers	3 yrs
10/30	Shirley S.	Illness in Recovery	25 yrs
10/30	Donny S.	Illness in Recovery	23 yrs
10/31	Kyra W.	All About Change	15 yrs
10/31	Tony F.	NA at Noon	23 yrs
11/4	Mike M.	Kickin' It Raw Men's Rap	33 yrs
11/7	Mary S.	All About Change	8 yrs



Convention Corner

WCNA 38

The Power of Love

Aug 29-Sep 1, 2024



World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC!

NEWSFLASH! NEWSFLASH! NEWSFLASH!

The 38th World Convention will be at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in downtown DC. Registration will go on sale in the last quarter of 2023 and will have information about hotels at that time as well.

NAWS will email everyone who is subscribed to a World Services email list (NAWS News, Just for Today, and A Spiritual Principle a Day) before registration goes on sale.

Members interested in being of service at WCNA-38 are welcome to provide their information for the local workgroup here:

https://naws.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_form

Information about most volunteer opportunities is announced a few months before the convention and will be posted at www.na.org/wcna



"Our Primary Action is Surrender"
CPRCNA XXXVII
CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC REGIONAL CONVENTION
OCEAN CITY MARYLAND APRIL 12 - 14, 2024



CPRCNA XXXVII

April 12 - 14, 2024 Ocean City, MD

<https://www.cprcna.org>

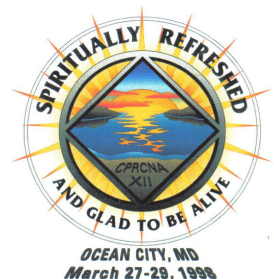
Submit Speaker CDs or MP3s by 10/24/23. For more info, go to <https://www.cprcna.org/>

Register early for \$30 by 2/12/24 at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

CPRCNA FREE Convention Speaker Tapes!

CPRCNA Inc. has decided to share the archives of CPRCNA. This web page contains downloadable mp3 speaker meetings from the Chesapeake & Potomac Regional NA conventions.

<https://www.cprcna.org/cprcna-mp3-speaker-files/>



EVENTS

More info can be found at: <https://www.cprna.org/event-calendar/> & <https://www.na.org/?ID=events-main>

Montgomery Area Special Events Presents:



FALL HARVEST DANCE
WITH MUSIC BY DJ LANCE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

FAIRHAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MASE Presents: Fall Harvest Dance!
10/28/2023 * 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Fairhaven United Methodist Church
12801 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown, MD 20878

GIFT CARD WINNERS
\$10 DONATION REQUESTED AT THE DOOR
FREE FOR PEOPLE IN TREATMENT CENTERS

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT VIA
VENMO @NATALIE-GITELMAN OR CASH APP \$SPECIAL EVENTS007
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
BRAD S. 540 272-8899 OR SUZANNE W. 240 793-1799



Central MD: Trunk or Treat & Costume Party
10/21/2023 * 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Savage United Methodist Church
9050 Baltimore St, Savage, MD, 20763

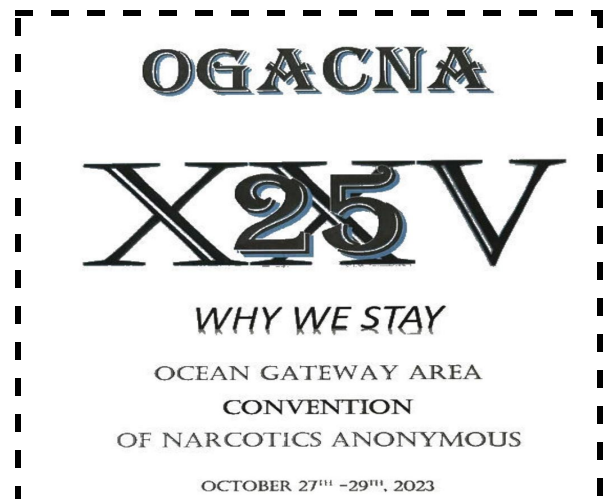


Camouflage & Fatigue Dance
10/21/2023 * 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Saint Francis Xavier School
2815 O Street, SE, Washington, DC, 20020

Newcomers 90 days and under &
Treatment Facilities (FREE)

Contact:
Sherman H. (202) 246-3830 * Marvin M. (301) 828-0894
John D. (202) 431-8353

Food * Fun & Fellowship



OGACNA 25
10/27/2023 - 10/29/2023
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD

<https://www.ogacna.com/2023-registration>



Service Works!

There are many opportunities to give back to NA. Try attending Area Service or a Subcommittee meeting to see if you like what they're doing. Their meeting info is below. In order to keep what you have, you gotta give it away!

Montgomery Area Service Committee

1st Tuesday @7:30pm

Meeting ID: 876 1298 6083; Password:
749698

Chair: Galen T.

masc@cprna.org

Hospitals & Institutions

3rd Thursday @7pm

Meeting ID: 822 2271 6888; Passcode:
216705

Chair: Jay G.

montgomeryareahandi@gmail.com

Literature

Email requests for orders:

Chair: Danny O.

obdanny722@gmail.com

Meetings

1st Tuesday @5:30pm

Meeting ID: 876 1298 6083; Password:
749698

Chair: Al G. aguzman106@gmail.com

Newsletter

4th Sunday @8pm

Meeting ID: 876 1298 6083; Password:
749698

Chair: Melissa M.

straighthope@cprna.org

Public Relations & Phonline

1st Tuesday @6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 876 1298 6083; Password:
749698

Chair: Shelley M.

na-montgomery@cprna.org

Special Events

1st Wednesday @7pm Christ the Servant
Lutheran Church
9801 Centerway Rd
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
Chair: Suzanne W.

There's more than one way to get to a Meeting!

SCAN QR CODE TO FIND NA MEETINGS IN THE DMV!



NA Meetings in Washington DC, Maryland, & Northern Virginia
NA 24/7 Phonline 1-800-561-4670
www.cprna.org na-montgomery@cprna.org

[Print Montgomery Area meeting list](#)

[Go to Montgomery Area online meeting list](#)

[Find all the meetings in the C&P Region](#)

[Find NA meetings World-Wide](#)

[Download BMLT App](#)

**But the info is only as good as the members
who update it...PLEASE email meeting
changes to: meetings@cprna.org**