

# CleanTimes

April - June 2007

Serving the West Tennessee Area of Narcotics Anonymous

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*NA in MAY in Memphis - May 5, 6 and 7, 2007*

## ***Never Alone Never Again***

The weekend of Thanksgiving 2006 was one that was planned for fun and recovery. Tuesday of that week I had left work and headed to the bank to withdraw some money for my trip. I had the biggest smile on my face. I was officially starting my vacation (funny how you can get clean and stay at a job long enough that they will pay you for not working). As I left the bank my smile only got bigger as I had money and wasn't going to hunt down dope but go searching for recovery. I was to leave Thanksgiving Day for our state NA convention. I was hyped even though things were to drastically change. As I got out of my car and headed into my apartment I had not one worry in the world. As I opened the door I saw my sister (another recovering addict) on the phone and was really upset. In a matter of a few seconds, I found out my mom and dad had been in a car wreck and my dad had died and my mom was in ICU. In that very second recovery kicked in. My first reaction was to call my sponsor. Dang it..voicemail. I called my sister's sponsor (another God thing, they are married) and she brought some sanity to the situation. I really don't remember much of the drive to the hospital except for my sponsor calling me and telling me he was on the way to meet us. We weren't there 5 minutes and both of our sponsors were there. Then another addict, and another, and another, and so on. One phone call led to almost 40 addicts converging in the emergency room. I was in awe as the people not only came but stayed. Let's not even talk about all the phone calls. I was hugged, held, cared for and loved. Truly I felt a spirit of NA I had never before felt. I remember sitting there and finally realizing that 2 things stood out more than anything else. First, never alone would I have to walk through life's ups and downs. And second, never again would I ever have to use to change the way I felt. My Higher Power is awesome and not only does he do for me what I couldn't do for so long, He has also graced me with a fellowship full of great people who are true friends. I could go on and on about all they did, but won't. I just want ya'll to know that I love each and everyone of you with all my heart. I can't do this without you. It's truly a WE program and I'm so grateful I found the rooms and my family in them.

ILS,

Raymond M.

***West Tennessee Area Service Committee***

Every 4th Sunday - 2:00 - Delta Medical Center

*Come be a part of - Always needing trusted servants - No Clean Time requirement to attend*

Here I lay in the middle of a mix of people all different yet all the same. We gather in search of a new direction, a new goal. Behind me are the days of wanton self - destruction, total self immersion and darkness, for now I see that life was up until this point lacking many important aspects. Perhaps it was not a lack as much as it was neglect. A powerful foe once dominated the landscape of my life set to flee into the background of a very green memory. I keep my enemy at bay only with the most constant effort. I can say truthfully that nothing is so important as thwarting the return of the monster of my former self. Were it not for my love of life as well as my desire to experience what my higher power has in store for me, I would not now be concocting this manuscript of the soul transcribed in the hope that perhaps some understanding may be gleaned as to the degree to which I feel my soul rejuvenated and set firmly, resolutely in a new direction. Just for today, Carter C.

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## ***I Ain't Gonna Work on Maggie's Farm No More***

There isn't anyone reading this article that wouldn't do anything they could for the still suffering addict. Any body would say that. If asked, they would be there for "the most important person". We would say that our primary purpose, to carry the message that has saved each of our lives to the newcomer, is why we are here.

But that's not exactly the walks walk, now is it? In a decade of being part of our Public Information Subcommittee I don't even have to get my shoes off to count the number of people who have served with me on that committee. I was hoping this would come out more light hearted but it doesn't look like it's going to be that way. Sorry.

Whenever you hear of a meeting of a public information gathering, you are being asked to give back. When you think back to when you called the phone line, got your first meeting schedule with numbers on it, or heard in an institution that there was such a thing as Narcotics Anonymous, you may not be connecting with the fact that by all the laws of gratitude, you should be showing up at Public Information meetings and lending a hand.

There is also another side to this coin that has not been flipped. In our community there is a whole majority of people (your sponsees) who do not make service a healthy dose of their recovery life. They are afraid and holding back from getting involved because the chores may be too much, boring, or too time consuming. It is just a matter of taking a small amount of risk and getting

involved. If you are a sponsee, get your sponsor to go with you to make sure things go well; it'll do em' some good to be seen. Could I have afforded not to get as involved in service and still stay clean? No way in hell!

Many hands make light work, a thirsty horse will drink water when led to it, and a fool and his recovery are soon parted; and all those appropriate clichés. Why don't we have a great big turnout at the next PI subcommittee meeting? Have your sponsees read the PI and the NA Member IP, have your home group get one. We can get together with the Vice-chair of the area, (he's chair of PI now cause the home groups didn't nominate anybody when the last guy was done) and we can talk about this and take some action. We may come up with some steps to get a healthy PI committee up and running again!

All are welcome to call myself or the old outgoing chair (Pop quiz: Do you know who it was?), that's Keith N (901) 494-2875 [kpnorman@bell-south.net](mailto:kpnorman@bell-south.net), if you want any information or want to share in a solution oriented discussion.

We really are having some trouble and we could use some help.

I love my fellowship and my clean time,  
Keith N

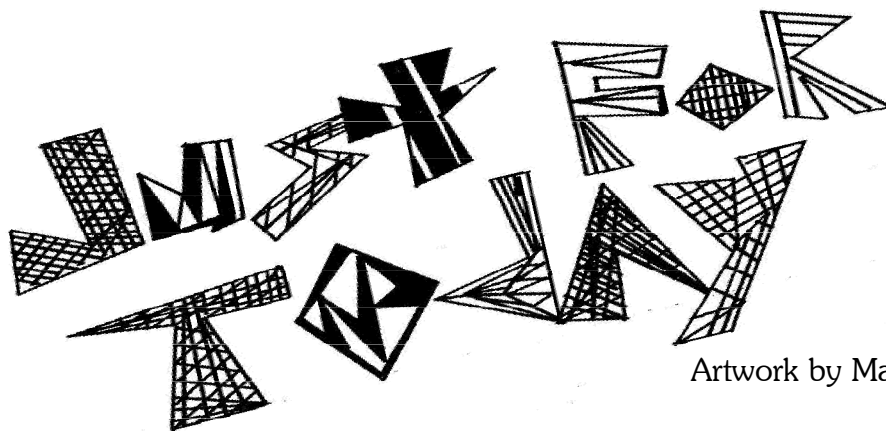
Phone line coordinator PI  
Treasurer NTF  
ED Board NaWay

**NA Literature Quote of the Day:**

*"We have found it helpful to have a sponsor and to use this sponsor."*

This line comes from our Basic Text in the Chapter "What Can I Do?" For me, this line could not be more true. I have a sponsor that I love, (*even if she doesn't co-sign my crap when I want her to*). Without her I don't think I could make it in this program. She helps me through the steps, points out my part in situations, helps me to grow and to be a better person and so forth. But the main thing is she loves me and believes in me and my recovery. I have had the same sponsor now for several years and intend on keeping her throughout my recovery. She is my rock. She is just there for me. I encourage you, if you are a newcomer, to find a sponsor and to use that sponsor. Like our literature says, it's the heartbeat of NA. I truly believe that. "*The therapeutic value of one addict helping another addict is without parallel*", and for me the first start of this is my relationship with my sponsor.

Connie G.



Artwork by Matt

***"Keep Coming Back"***

Surrender to win!! What a crazy thing to say  
It makes no more sense than Living Just For Today.  
Ok, I never could stay clean when I was doing things my way,  
But how can I keep what I've got, if I give it away?  
Recovery is strange, and it makes no sense to me,  
Yet somehow it works, if I just simply believe.  
These slogans change lives, for those who take them to heart.  
So please don't leave before the miracle starts.  
You may never know what happened, or how u got so far off track,  
But you too can recover, if you keep coming back.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## APRIL

Heather M. - 4/7 - 1 Year - Lunch Bunch  
Rickey Y. - 4/7 - 6 Years - Get Honest or Die  
Debbie F. - 4/10 - 25 Years - Clean A.I.R.  
Jackie P. - 4/10 - 2 Years - Lunch Bunch  
Maryann D. - 4/15 - 27 Years - Lunch Bunch  
Will L. - 4/20 - 1 Year - Clean A.I.R.  
Kelly R. - 4/23 - 4 Years - Lunch Bunch  
Trinity P. - 4/25 - 3 Years - Clean A.I.R.  
Tommy W. - 4/26 - 14 Years - Harmony  
Sherry W. - 4/26 - 14 Years - Harmony  
Ashley B. - 4/30 - 1 Year - Southern Serenity

## MAY

Tommy M. - 5/5 - 5 Years - Harmony  
Jason E. - 5/6 - 11 Years - Keep It Green  
Evelyn H. - 5/8 - 12 Years - Spiritual Awakings  
Steve A. - 5/9 - 6 Years - Cordova Hope  
Henry T. - 5/16 - 13 Years - Solutions  
Adam K. - 5/20 - 3 Years - Clean A.I.R.  
Bill R. - 5/21 - 6 Years - Lunch Bunch  
Kevin C. - 5/25 - 8 Years - Clean A.I.R.  
John B. - 5/27 - 3 Years - Farfromusen

## JUNE

Kasha - 6/15 - 4 Years - Clean A.I.R.  
Polk O. - 6/18 - 15 Years - Harmony  
Kendo L. - 6/18 - 4 Years - Positive Image

*Editors Note:* I apologize if your birthday has been omitted. Please note these are actual clean dates and birthdays may be celebrated on a different day. Listen for announcements

## 19th Annual

# NA in MAY in Memphis BBQ Championship & Campout

**May 11, 12, & 13, 2007**

**Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park  
Piersol Group Camp**

*12 Categories*

Pork Ribs, Pork Shoulder, Beef, Poultry,  
Sauce, Vegetarian, Exotic,  
Backyard Style, Cakes N Bakes,  
Hot Wings, Showmanship, Beans

## Meeting Needing Support

New Beginnings II

**SATURDAY NIGHTS  
4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM**

1953 Sartain  
Horn Lake, MS

*Come Check Us Out!*

## New Meeting In Town

Name To Be Announced

**SATURDAY NIGHTS  
6:30 PM**

Trinity U.M. Church  
1738 Galloway at Evergreen  
*(entrance in rear)*

## New Meeting In Town

Southern Serenity

**MONDAY NIGHTS  
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.**

Highland Heights U.M.  
3476 Summer at Highland  
*(Side Entrance)*

*Women's Meeting*