

January-March

2008

# The We Version



*The West Tennessee Area of Narcotics Anonymous*

*Happy New Year!*

## Willingness

When I was introduced to the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous back in May of 2000, I came for all the wrong reasons. Although my life was in total shambles, I wasn't willing to do anything about it. I was introduced to NA by a couple of addicts that were doing H&I at the treatment facility I had entered. I was brought to the treatment center following a suicide attempt. I didn't really even realize that I had a drug problem. I just thought that people just didn't understand me. My family had all but shut me out of their lives. I was having problems at work. I was in financial ruins, even though I had a job, a roof over my head, a car to drive and so forth. I had such a spiritual void that was unbearable. But still I didn't realize that maybe drugs were a problem. After H&I came into that treatment facility I started looking at my problem. After I got out I did go to some meetings. But I did not have any willingness to do the suggestions that were given to me. I got a sponsor only to be able to say I had a sponsor. I may have answered 5 questions on the first step. I wasn't willing to give up on the old people, places and things. I didn't connect with the women of the fellowship. And I didn't consider alcohol a drug (I didn't think I had a problem with alcohol and it wasn't a drug to me). I stayed around off and on for about 6 months, picking up white keys left and right. Pretty soon I gave up and went back to using on a daily basis. The next 2 years of my life were hell. When I finally had enough I sought the rooms of NA again. I got a sponsor, I did 90 in 90, started working steps, found a Higher Power, giving back by doing service work and started working on myself. I had finally found the willingness to do something about my problem. I got involved. My life started getting a lot better. But somewhere along the way I stopped having willingness to do what was necessary for my recovery. I stopped doing H&I. I stopped working steps diligently. I stopped going to as many meetings. I wasn't willing to share my ES & H with the newcomer. All of the things that brought me to place of serenity in my life, I lost the willingness to do. I didn't use at first but started slowly falling back into the old ways of my past. One day I uttered the words that are so famous to addicts "F\*\*K IT". Before I knew it I picked up that first drug. At first it was ok. But slowly and surely my life became a living HELL. I lost my dad in a fatal car accident, and my life went downhill from there. *Cont. page 3.*

*"For me there is nothing as horrible for an addict that knows and lives recovery than to be back in active addiction."*

## World Convention of Narcotics NA: 2007

Before going to the World Convention in San Antonio, I said that I planned to keep a journal on my trip and asked if I could write an article for the newsletter. I was encouraged to follow my muse, especially if I could keep it short and sweet- So Here It Goes!

I flew into San Antonio on Friday night because I had to work all day. The convention was already in full swing, having started on Thursday. My brother Mathew picked me up at the airport, and we drove straight to the convention center to pick up our registration materials. My brother lives about 100 miles northwest of San Antonio in the Hill Country of Texas, and he has 22 years clean in NA. It was his program of recovery that brought me to NA in the first place. I first learned of NA through his program, and although it took many years of my active addiction before I found my moment of clarity and surrendered, Mathew was there for me when I asked for help.

I will always be grateful for his example.

After a short night's sleep, we set out Saturday morning on a trolley ride to the Central Market area and breakfast at Mi Tierra restaurant. This famous Tex-Mex eatery is well known for its 24- hour service and homemade Mexican pastries. While waiting for service at the pastry counter, we started talking to some other addicts who had convention badges around their necks. When one of them found out that I was from Memphis, he was ecstatic. His name is Keith P., and he got clean in Memphis in the 80's. He asked me about Terry B., Joseph P., Gene L., Winston G., and other "oldtimer" members from our region. I hadn't even made it to the convention site yet this day, and I was already enjoying our extended fellowship.

Next Issue- I am warmed by a fire that I did not build.

-Tim H.

"The broader the base, the higher the point of freedom" Basic Text



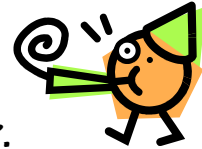
The Get Honest or Die Meeting on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm desperately needs meeting attendance. Thanks for your support, come out and bring your Experience, Strength and Hope to the still suffering addict.

**Note from the chair:** As my term will be ending before we know it, I am asking that the groups as well as individuals start talking about who might be interested in learning the ropes for when the new term starts. This newsletter brings a lot of experience, strength and hope to the area and it would be sad to see it not go on. Anyone interested can contact me or show up to area or tell your group. Thanks, Trinity P.

## *Black and White Ball, New Years Eve!*

*First Congo, Doors open at 7:30 pm*

*Speaker Meeting at 8, Dance at 9*



**Contin**

*Tickets are \$8.50 pre-sale, \$10 at the door.*

*Ring in the New Year CLEAN!!! No addict turned away*

### **“Willingness” cont. from page 1.**

For me there is nothing as horrible for an addict that knows and lives recovery than to be back in active addiction. My back was against the wall. I didn't want to disappoint anyone and felt like I couldn't tell anybody. But one day the pain became so great that I had to do something. I finally got honest and checked myself back into treatment. I learned a lot by going there. I was humiliated when I walked in there, but in a few days I got back a taste of humility. I wanted what I had had. I made that decision to be willing to do anything to regain my recovery. I went to a meeting the same night I got out of treatment and picked up my white key tag. I totally surrendered myself to the fellowship. And I got a whole lot of willingness. Today I know if I lose that willingness I will head right back for a relapse. I know that I have to be willing in every area of my life. Today I am clean. I have managed to put together a few days together. I know as long as I stay willing to do the things that I need to do on a daily basis that I have a reprieve from a disease that is so much greater than me, that wants me dead. For me, willingness is everything.

A grateful recovery addict, “Just For Today”,  
Connie G.

### **The Southern Zonal Forum**

**“The World Service Conference affirms that zonal forums, as service-oriented sharing sessions that provide means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another, are valuable components of NA. We support the continued valuable work of the zonal forums that exist today worldwide, and encourage any further efforts NA communities may take to support one another.”**

The Southern Zonal Forum is located in the south-central part of the United States. The geographical area of the Southern Zonal Forum extends from Richland, VA west over 1446 miles to Del Rio, TX., and from Brownsville, TX. to the northern border of Missouri, which is 1300 miles. This takes in over 900,000 square miles.

The Southern Zonal Forum is made up of the following Regions: Appalachian/Bluegrass (Eastern Kentucky), Arkansas, Kentuckiana (Kentucky/Indiana), Lone Star (Central Texas), Louisiana, Mississippi, Show-Me (Missouri and part of Illinois/Kansas), Red River (Oklahoma), Tejas-Bluebonnet (Southern Texas), Volunteer (Tennessee), through each of the eight Regions that make up the Zone.

The Southern Zonal will meet in Memphis in July-08.

Look for more information about the Southern Zonal Forum and how you can be a part of NA's information highway in the next issue.

## West Tennessee Area Anniversaries

### January

Positive Image

West L.- 1/27/95- 13 years

Sherry H.- 1/10/07- 1 year

James M.- 1/12/07- 1 year

Kenisha W.- 1/14/07- 1 year

Farfromusen

Eddie R.- 1/7/07- 1 year

Eric O.- 1/14/05- 3 years

Dopeless Hope Fiends

Mary E.- 1/24/05- 3 years

Primary Purpose

Lucy O.- 1/21/87- 21 years

Nothing to Fear

Glen H.- 1/6/04- 4 years

Lunch Bunch

Brenda N.- 1/26/05-3 years

Carol C.- 1/19/05- 3 years

Cordova Hope

Louis G. celebrates 1/20, 7 years

### February

Positive Image

Clarence H.- 2.28/06- 2 years

Troy M.- 2/8/07- 1 year

Primary Purpose

Lisa C.- 2/22/06- 2 years

Cortez J.- 2/14/95- 13 year

Clean A.I.R.

Coni J.- 2/19/1986- 22 years

Lunch Bunch

Milton W.- 2/28/07-1 year



### March

Keep it Green

Susan S.- 3/15/90- 18 years

Positive Image

Donna W.- 3/29/94- 14 years

Michelle W.- 3/23/93- 15 years

Salahud M.- 3/3/99- 9 years

Franklin L.- 3/27/00- 8 years

Tiffany T.- 3/29/04- 4 years

Patrick I.- 3/28/06- 2 years

Ronnie T.- 3/21/07- 1 year

Dopeless Hope Fiends

Jaramie P.- 3/3/06- 2 years

Andrew G.- 3/6/07- 1 year

Primary Purpose

Freddie D.- 3/19/04- 1 year

The Attic

Shannon T.- 3/9/04- 4 years

Jacob W.- 3/2/04- 4 years

Jerry M.- 3/8/06- 2 years

Clean A.I.R.

Mark V.B.- 3/3/06- 2 years

Lunch Bunch

Vera D.- 3/28/07- 3 years

These dates are the actual clean dates. Listen for announcements in meetings to find out the celebration dates.

## Area Subcommittee Meetings

*Outreach:* First Saturday of each month at Noon, First Congo

*PI:* Second Monday of each month, 6 p.m., Keep it Green

*Activities:* Third Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Clean A.I.R.

*Literature:* Second Friday of each month, 6:30, Spiritual Awakenings

*NA in May:* Second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Keep it Green

*Newsletter:* Third Sunday of each month, 6:45, Primary Purpose

*H&I:* Fourth Sunday of each month, One p.m., Delta Medical Center

NA in May Fundraisers  
 January 26, 2008: Italian Dinner and Bingo, First Congo @ 7 pm  
 February and March: There will be a Spring Formal and Chili Cook-off, more info to follow! Listen in meetings for details.

Email submissions to: [Newsletterna@yahoo.com](mailto:Newsletterna@yahoo.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.na-wt.org](http://www.na-wt.org)