



**Newsletter of the New Jersey Region**

**March 2005**

### **Convention Theme Chosen, Planning Moves Ahead**

The Convention Planning Committee reported that the theme selected at its last meeting was "Two Decades of Recovery the NA Way." This represented a change from a previously selected theme that duplicated those of other nearby conventions. Registration (\$15 advance, \$20 at the door), and other event pricing were also set. The committee reported three vacancies: Assistant Treasurer, Fundraising and Entertainment chair, and Arts and Graphics chair. Anybody with an interest in doing that work should contact James C. at 732-895-1248 email: jamesc@njrcna.org

### **Public Information Plows Ahead**

The regional PI subcommittee and the Area subcommittees are now pursuing several fairly major projects. The January region meeting approved funding of \$1,369,20 to purchase and deliver Basic Texts to every Drug Court Judge and Treatment Assessment Service Officer in the state. \$580 was approved for the purchase of a stockpile of literature to be distributed at PI events, and \$324.50 for the printing of 1,700 (1,500 English, 200 Spanish) Helpline posters. The mailing to treatment providers previously approved was in progress, and the mailing to DARE contacts was reported completed.

Areas are being encouraged to hold PI workshops, and the need for Helpline workshops and the addition of members to the helpline is growing, as we can anticipate significant increase in helpline activity in the not-so-distant future as a result of the PI activities.

### **Fund Flow Dammed Up**

Due to apparent lack of a motion, the region sent only the \$200 minimum donation established by policy to World Services. At close of business, the treasury was holding a total balance in excess of \$31,000, providing a working capital balance of \$19,864.82 over and above the Prudent Reserve and Meeting List Reserve. This greatly exceeds the suggested "ideal" working balance of \$9,000, which is rather large in its own right. (As a yardstick, the Region's total expenses for March region were below \$5,000, so we are holding sufficient funds to meet that level of expenses for more than 6 months without either touching the prudent reserve or receiving any

contributions whatsoever. This seems beyond prudent. Will we next be stockpiling canned goods and ammo at the Archives storage site, just to provide against the possible total collapse of civilization?

### **JAC Meeting**

A meeting of the Joint Administrative Committee, scheduled for February 19, was to discuss the general cleanup of regional policy and the semi-contentious issue of dual membership on the convention Planning Committee and Board of Trustees. Our next issue will report the results, if any, of that meeting.

### **Other Business**

History and Archives reports that things are going well, and that the process of filing material to the filing cabinets is proceeding. The cabinets cost \$133,72,

Veronica P., recently elected as assistant secretary, found herself moved up immediately to the Secretary position. The positions of Helpline liaison and Website chair remain vacant, and are open for election at the March meeting.

A policy motion was passed to add the Regional Delegate as a fourth possible signator to the two signature Regional checking account.

Various individual requests for funding to the MidAtlantic Regional Learning Conference (MARLCNA) were ruled out of order.

**Send input and articles to:**

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**Sanity is published every two months as a service of the New Jersey region for its groups and members. Input and articles are welcome on all recovery-related topics. Opinions expressed here are those of individual addicts, not N.A. as a whole.**

**Issues of SANITY can be downloaded from the statewide website, [www.nanj.org](http://www.nanj.org)**

## ¿Se recuperan los hispanos en NA?

Hola, me llamo Tito y soy adicto. Mi recuperación comenzó en Puerto Rico en el 1994 y por la gracia de Dios hasta el día de hoy no he tenido que consumir. Comencé hacer reuniones en Nueva Yersey en el año 2000 cuando me mude a estas partes. Pronto me di cuenta de que hay un sin numero de adictos de habla hispana en el área donde resido pero solo había una reunión bilingüe. Me motive a darle apoyo a esa reunión y asistí fielmente todos los miércoles. La adversidad más grande que encontré fue tratar de hablar español en la reunión bilingüe sin que se mostraran ofendidos los compañeros(as) que asistían. Pronto me di cuenta que solo era una falacia. Hoy en día la reunión continúa siendo anunciada como "bilingüe" pero que Dios te libre si te cogen hablando en español allí.

La pregunta que me hago es; ¿A que se debe la falta de apoyo? Actualmente la línea de ayuda estatal tiene la opción en español pero la información solo se encuentra en ingles. Alrededor de 30 llamadas mensuales que van dirigidas al menú en español igualan a unas posibles 30 vidas que aran a parar en cárceles, instituciones, o la muerte por el mero hecho de que no estamos siendo vigilantes. Una vida es demasiado. ¿Qué es? ¿Vagancia, desgano, perdida de identidad cultural? ¿Nos da el síndrome del "Que se joda"? ¿Coño despierta mi hermano(a)! Estamos hablando de vidas perdidas por nuestra complacencia y vagancia.

La medida por la cual nuestro propósito primordial es efectivo se talla con el fervor y la dedicación que nuestros miembros le aplican al servicio en Narcóticos Anónimos. La unidad de nuestra primera tradición toma vida cuando nos extendemos para asegurar que ningún adicto que busque ayuda tenga que morir a consecuencia de esta enfermedad. Sea blanco, amarillo, latino, moreno, etc. Actualmente el Comité Regional de Servicio de Nueva Yersey ha señalado un comité ADHOC para explorar este asunto en nuestra región. Quisiera exhortar por medio de esta carta a que te motives y te comuniqués con tu representante de área para asistir a este comité. Necesitamos voluntarios para asistir llamadas recibidas a la línea de ayuda, traductores, y lugares para comenzar reuniones bilingües o de habla hispana en tu área. Exhorta a tus amistades o comenzar reuniones de habla hispana. Date la tarea que con el tiempo llegan, pero, hay que darle un lugar donde llegar. Envuélvete en el comité de información publica en tu área para asegurar que se este distribuyendo literatura en español y que el mensaje este llegando a nuestras comunidades, las cortes, escuelas, etc. Unidos podemos, esto es un llamado, te ha tocado la hora de devolver lo que se te ha dado. El servicio es la mejor expresión de gratitud en nuestro maravilloso programa.

De ustedes quedo,

**Tito C.**

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## Can Hispanics recover in NA?

Hello, my name is Tito and I am an addict. My recovery began in Puerto Rico in 1994 and by the grace of God I have not had to pick up to date. I began to make meetings in New Jersey in 2000 when I moved here. Soon I realized I was surrounded by a number of Hispanic addicts in the area where I reside but only one bilingual meeting. I was motivated to support that meeting and I attended every Wednesday faithfully. The greatest adversity that I found was to try to speak Spanish in the bilingual meeting without offending the members of the group. Soon I realized it was a deceit. Nowadays the meeting continues being announced as "bilingual" but, God help you if you're caught speaking in Spanish there.

I ask myself; why the lack of support? At this time the helpline has the option in Spanish but the information is in English. Around 30 calls monthly are directed to the menu in Spanish which is the equivalent to a possible 30 lives that may wind up in jails, institutions, or the death by the mere fact that we are not being vigilant. One life is too much. What is it? Laziness, carelessness, lost of cultural identity? Are we getting the syndrome of the "Fukits"? Coño, wake up! We are speaking of lost lives by way of our complacency and Laziness.

The measurement by which our primary purpose is effective carves with the fervor and dedication that our members apply to service in Narcotics Anonymous. The unity of our first tradition takes life when we extend ourselves to assure that no addict need die from the horrors of addiction. Be white, yellow, Latin, brown, etc. At the moment the New Jersey Regional Service Conference has appointed an ADHOC committee to explore this subject. I want to exhort by means of this letter to all of you that we get motivated to address this issue, communicate with your area's Regional Conference Member to attend this ADHOC meeting. We needed volunteers to attend received calls to the helpline, translators, and places to begin bilingual meetings in your area. Get your networks involved to begin bilingual meetings. Date the task that with time they will arrive, but, it is necessary to give them a place to arrive to. Get involved with the public information committee in your area to assure that they are distributing Spanish literature and that the message is arriving at our communities, the courts, schools, etc. United we can, this is a call, the hour to give back what has be so freely given to you. Gratitude is best expressed through service in our wonderful program.

Yours truly,

**Tito C.**

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