

Sanity

Newsletter of the New Jersey Region



November 2007

Jersey Unity



Narcotics Anonymous
World Services

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BULLETIN #19

Gender-specific language and use of the word "God" in NA literature

Living in New Jersey gives us the opportunity to attend many local conventions. In the Spirit of Unity throughout our Garden State, these conventions bring recovering addicts together to celebrate the gift of recovery.

Our own Regional Convention **NJRACNA XXIII** will be held in Cherry Hill at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center on June 20, 21, 22, 2008. Early Bird registrations are available for purchase. These registration fees give the committee a cash flow to offset the costs of planning the convention.

For an earlier convention, you may want to attend Bergen Area's

New Year's Eve Convention

Sunday December 30, through Tuesday, January 1, 2008, at the Somerset Marriot, 110 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873.

To offset the winter doldrums you can attend the Cape Atlantic Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous

Pearl of Recovery XVIII

On February 29, March 1, 2, 2008, at the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center of West AC, located at 6821 Black Horse Pike, West Atlantic City.

To welcome in spring, Ocean County Convention, 'Just for Today' will be held at the Quality Inn on Route 37 in Toms River on April 18, 19, 20, 2008.

The Hudson County Area, an area with some of the oldest NA meetings in New Jersey, is in its third year of planning for its first NA Convention:

Hudson County Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous (HCACNA-1)

During the first two years, the subcommittee worked tirelessly to fill all subcommittee chair positions, to establish policies, and to locate a hotel to accommodate the expected attendees. HCACNA-1 hopes to have its convention sometime in the summer 2008, provided that its fundraising goals and objectives continue to be a success. For more information about the convention or to attend one of its Fundraising and Entertainment events, please contact Carlos M., CI, (732) 259-2422, or Linda M., FE, (201) 434-3541.

For information on most conventions, please visit our Region's website at www.nanj.org.

The following is a February 1992 response to a motion committed to the World Service Board of Trustees by the World Service Conference. It reflects the views of the board at the time of writing.

During WSC '91, the following motion was committed to the World Service Board of Trustees for its consideration: That all subsequent literature that is to be revised and be produced to have non-gender-specific language and that all references to God be changed to "Higher Power" or "Power Greater than ourselves."

This motion was addressed at our June 1991, August 1991, and February 1992 meetings, with our discussions focusing on the following main issues.

First, and simplest, is the change to non-gender-specific language. Our perception is that the various committees involved in literature projects are already very sensitive to this issue. Changes of the type suggested by this motion are already being considered in the literature development and review process.

More complicated is the question of changing all references to "God." Our fellowship embraces the devoutly religious as well as the atheist. We experience a profound spiritual awakening as a result of actively applying the Twelve Steps in our lives. Most of us continue to experience change and growth in our spiritual orientation as we continue to live the program. We are faced with the dilemma of meaningfully addressing diverse and evolving personal spiritual orientations. This motion proposes replacing all references to God with the terms "Higher Power" or "Power Greater than ourselves." These substitutions would not resolve our dilemma since they still would not meet the needs of many members, particularly those who believe that the "Power greater than ourselves" in the Second Step is not equivalent to the "God, as we understood Him" in our Third Step. There have been numerous other alternatives suggested to the term "God." We feel that, prior to making a change which could profoundly impact our philosophy and interpretation of principles, significant discussion and agreement need to take place within the fellowship at large.

Both of these questions carry with them an additional consideration, since the word "God" and gender-specific

language are used in our steps and traditions. We feel that any changes to our steps and traditions should not be considered in the same way we consider narrative portions of our literature. Once again, we feel that such changes and the possible ramifications of such changes need to have significant discussion and agreement prior to any implementation.

As a result of our discussions, it is the opinion of the World Service Board of Trustees that no formal action should be taken on this motion at this time. We do, however, believe that these topics should be widely discussed throughout the fellowship. We thank the conference for allowing us to serve. *World Service Bulletin #13

Recovery Poetry & Prose

TWELVE STEPS TO HEAVEN



I always thought that heaven's where we went after we die.
I thought our spirit floated up and never questioned why.

Then I learned that spirit is something for which we yearn.
In actual fact, it's something that we also need to learn.

It happens somewhat slowly when God leads us to step one.
We feel somehow relieved of all the wrong that we have done.

We now are learning principles that show us how to live.
We've gained acceptance in our lives and now we want to give.

Steps two and three are not too far
and still we're learning more,
About the changes we must make, contingent on step four.

We're letting go of all our fears and giving up control.
We're humble now and ready to be taken from this hole.

We're willing and we're able,
filled with hope yet still we've wept.
But diligent we carry on and climb another step.

Trusting in a higher power to help us do what's right.
With love, respect and unity our strength grows every night.

Believe these steps to heaven are the steps we take on earth,
The ones that show our spirit, the ones that speak our worth.

Jo Sept. 11, 2005

Committee Updates



The **Website** Committee is pleased with their new service 'Host', which has cleared up some of the difficulties that the website had been experiencing with the previous service provider and has made the website more people-friendly. Currently, the committee is working on creating email accounts for all committees in both New Jersey Region and North New Jersey Region.

Please visit the website at www.nanj.org



The **Helpline** Committee is continually working to keep the volunteer listing current and to have the system to as efficient as possible. In an effort to keep costs as low as possible, the committee looked into pricing from other companies and decided that the current provider is the most reasonably priced. In addition, current meeting information must always be available to the operators working for the company in order to be absolutely certain that the suffering addicts who call the Helpline will get accurate information.



The **Convention Planning Committee** and Board of Trustees have been meeting Regularly to plan the **NJRSC XXIII** Convention with anticipation of it being the Ultimate Convention for June 20, 21, 22, 2008, at the Cherry Hill Clarion Hotel and Convention Center. Early Bird Registrations are available for \$10. The theme of the convention will be **The Disease Has Been Arrested**. The committee is seeking a logo for this theme. Please visit the website at www.nanj.org for information on submitting a logo.



NJRSC is in desperate need of volunteers to serve on the **Public Information Committee**. Please consider giving back what was so freely given to you and serve on this committee.

Send input and articles to:

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Please put 'Sanity' in the subject line.

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 NA as a whole.

Issues of SANITY can be downloaded from the NJ Statewide Website at www.nanj.org

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### Words of Wisdom:

Figure out what the problem is;  
Figure out what the solution is;  
Stop living in the problem;  
Start living in the solution.



Editor:

MD