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WHAT IS N.A.?

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route of jails, institutions ~~and~~

before finding N.A. The ones of us who have died are legion. N.A. has proven an form of treating the disease by just going to NA meetings, not using any drugs at all, and by practicing at 12 simple instructions known as the 12 steps. It has proven to be the thing that set us free from the grips of the obsession and the compulsion built in to every addict. Which cause us to die or go insane if we do not find a way out. In N.A. we have found, identity, hope and the strenght to combat our active addiction.

FOR WHAT SERVICES DOES N.A. RELY ON THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY?

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1. Detoxification, hospitalization, medication, psychiatric and other medical diagnosis and treatment, or professional nursing and convalescent care.
(Some professional people who are members of N.A. sometimes perform some of the above as part of their professional practice, but these are not a part of N.A. membership or N.A. group activities.)
2. Housing, food, clothing, money, and other welfare and casework services; professionally staffed day centers, halfway houses, retreats, and rest homes.
(In an emergency, some N.A. members, as private citizens, temporarily help lodge or feed an addict. But we are aware that such assistance is outside the N.A. province, better performed by those of professional skill, experience, and other resources.)
3. Professional psychological, legal, marital, vocational, and employment counseling, training and opportunities.
4. Community organization law enforcement, and legislation in regard to drug-problems.
(Some N.A. members participate in these as citizens, but not as representatives of N.A.)
5. Professional research and scientific training and education.
(N.A. members often cooperate privately in these efforts, too.)
6. Theological and pastoral counseling, sacraments, and other religious services.
7. Initial case-finding and motivation for the still-denying problem user.
(Many of us are recovering from addiction today because some professional person "pushed" us into N.A.)

Fellowship

TO THE PROFESSIONAL,

We of Narcotics Anonymous are currently engendered to bring about more communication, understanding, respect and cooperation between Narcotics Anonymous and any professional person who works with drug addicts - so that more and more addicts may recover.

Long before N.A. came into existence, in 1953, physicians, hospitals, churches, the Federal Government, other agencies and other people provided life saving aid to addicts and they still do. We are profoundly grateful for the unselfish dedication of people like you to the welfare of people like us.

Many of our members were enormously helped or influenced by the spirit of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Many also found assistance from family members, friends, and others who often rescue and befriend addicts in many ways. Obviously it is not true that only an addict can help an addict. A few individual histories clearly show us that non-addicts can be of great benefit to the addict.

Help in doing so will be the fellowship. Apologetic living will
 probably give us the realization that in our new lives we
 don't need to say "I'm sorry" as often. A smile will get us out
 of many bad situations and we will be more free to rest each day in
 our right. The decision and act of surrender to our Creator
 and human frailty will free us from the feeling that we must
 constantly make up for being so awful.

Problems concerning the world are dealt with in many ways.
 Many of our people have ongoing legal and financial problems. These
 were always seen absolutely insurmountable in the beginning. As
 we attend meetings and hear the experience strength and hope of
 others we will come to notice that we are not the only ones with
 problems. We will eventually hear someone who flat makes us feel
 lucky by comparison. We will probably notice that we compare more
 and more favorably with where we were at when we came in.

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Billions can be spent and not do half the good of
 a knowing smile and the warm feeling we get from our meetings
 and the warm feeling our fellowship.

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We are grateful to have found a solid home; for those of us who felt like social rejects from the very beginning need the identification that N.A. can give us. Grateful also to see new people coming to meetings from the streets. There is nothing that compares to a new person freshly talking about the pain and the endless hassle that goes on out there.

WHO REALLY RUNS N.A.?

There is no official governing authority in N.A. We rely on traditions, suggestions, and examples. The principle operating unit of N.A. is the local N.A. group. Each group is autonomous, and instead of officers with authority, we have trusted servants.

Neither the trustees of the General Service Board, local central offices, the annual General Service Conference (delegates from U.S. and Canadian groups), nor a neighborhood N.A. group has actual authority over any N.A. member or entity.

N.A. is not an organization in the usual sense of the word, with hierarchies of power. Instead, it is a fellowship of recovering addicts. This is important for N.A. as a whole.

Area Service Committee, Atlanta, Ga.

N.A. offers answers we can use, answers that have worked for others with our experience.

Medicine has failed to take sufficient precautions to protect potential addicts. Addiction is a side effect of modern medicine.

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Now-today we of Narcotics Anonymous, God and N.A. facilities such as club houses and literature exist offer the addict the relief he so in vain wished and longed for.

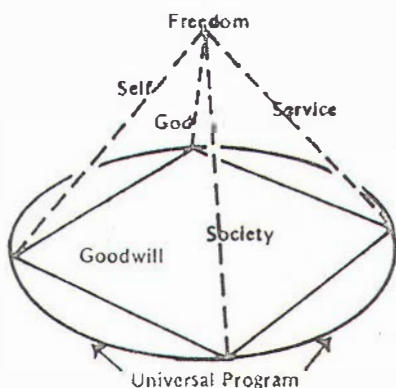
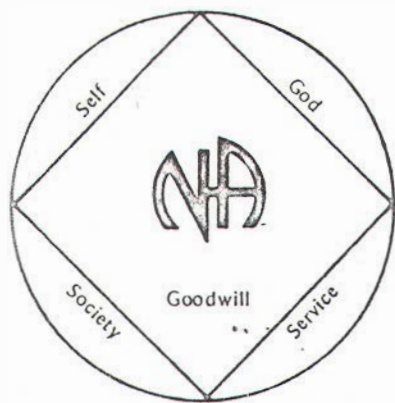
OUR N.A. SYMBOL

Simplicity is the keynote of our symbol; it follows the simplicity of our Fellowship. We could find all sorts of occult and esoteric connotations in the simple outlines, but foremost in our minds were easily understood meanings and relationships.

The outer circle denotes a universal and total program that has room within for all manifestations of the recovering and wholly recovered person.

The square, whose lines are defined, is easily seen and understood; but there are other unseen parts of the symbol. The square base denotes Goodwill, the ground of both the fellowship and the member of our society. Actually, it is the four pyramid sides which rise from this base in a three dimensional figure that are the Self, Society, Service and God. All rise to the point of Freedom.

All parts thus far are closely related to the needs and aims of the addict seeking recovery and the purpose of the fellowship seeking to make recovery available to all. The greater the base, as we grow in unity in numbers and in Fellowship, the broader the sides and the higher the point of freedom. Probably the last to be lost to freedom will be the stigma of being an addict. Goodwill is best exemplified in service and proper service is "Doing the right thing for the right reason." When this supports and motivates both the individual and the fellowship, we are fully whole and wholly free.



This presentation of the Service Structure of Narcotics Anonymous is dedicated to the following proposition:
 To assure that no addict seeking recovery need die without having had a chance to find a better way of life, from this day forward may we better provide the necessary services.

DEDICATION

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We in N.A. are men and women who have discovered and admitted, that we cannot control drugs. We have learned that we must live without it if we are to avoid disaster for ourselves and those close to us.

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With local groups in many communities, we are part of an informal international fellowship with members in foreign countries. We have but one primary purpose: to stay clean ourselves and to help others who may turn to us for help in achieving this goal.

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the foundation of any lasting recovery.

It can cause great harm to confuse issues and present complex thoughts to addicts seeking help. Never should we be dishonest and claim to have all the answers but we can share our experience and the things that worked for us. The personal example of "I did such and such and it worked for me", has great influence and addicts respond instinctively to honest sharing. The fact that the addict can feel the unconditional love and judge for themselves the "qualification" revealed in the stories of recovered addicts awakens the notion that at last there might be hope.

Take a look around. If you're the kind of drug user who lives in the streets trying to find something to bang into your arm from day to day, you are inclined to be skeptical and not overly trusting. You need proof. In that N.A. meeting is your proof. There you will find people like yourself with the same or worse patterns of drug dependency and failure and they are clean and sober. There is your proof. They can smile. Their eyes are clear. They seem to care for each other. They will probably introduce themselves to you and try to make you feel welcome. As the meeting progresses you will hear a little bit about them from their own lips. You will hear things that remind you of you if you listen with an open mind and give yourself the opportunity to begin getting well. The main point is this: These people are drug dependent people like yourself yet they are clean and sober for months or years. If you can watch them and listen to them openly and realize that these people--as crazy and confused and helpless as yourself before they got to N.A.--that these people have found a way to live and be happy without drugs, you will have come to Narcotics Anonymous!