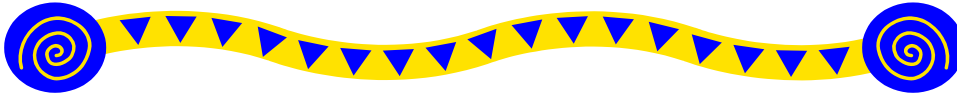


January 2008

THE SPACECOAST JOURNAL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



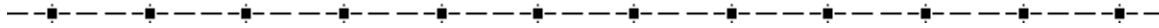
SPACECOAST RECOVERY BI-MONTHLY NEWS

VOLUME 1



FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS BY RECOVERING ADDICTS

**SPACECOAST RECOVERY
BI-MONTHLY NEWS**



From The Editor

When we finally came to NA, after suffering through our addiction, many of us believed we have “earned our seats” in this fellowship. We have!!!!!!!

This issue includes topics that are important to our recovery. We can not forget the empty chairs left by those still suffering or those addicts who have died. We are grateful to be among the lucky ones that have found NA, and we say thanks for all they gave to us from their seats here in NA.

Michelle C- Newsletter Chair

IN THIS ISSUE

- For the Newcomer Page 3
- Sponsor-Sponsee Interviews Page 4
- Opinion Section Page 5
- Crossword/Puzzle Page 6
- For the Kids Page 7
- Classifieds Page 8

The Space Coast Recovery Bi-Monthly News welcomes letters from all readers. Letters to the editor can respond to any article that appeared in this newsletter. First name and last initial will be used as the signature line unless the writer request anonymity.

FOR THE NEWCOMER

By Ralph M.

Surrender to Win

“Help for addicts begin only when we are able to admit complete defeat “
Basic Text Pg 22

Complete defeat- what a concept! That must mean surrender. Surrender to give up absolutely. To quit with no reservations. To put up our hands and quit fighting. Maybe to put up our hand at our first meeting and admit we're addicts.

How do we know we have taken a first step that will allow us to live drugs-free? We know because, once we have taken the gigantic step, we never have to use again- Just For Today. That's it. It's not easy, but it's very simple.

We work the first step. We accept that, yes, we are addicts. “One is to many and a thousand never enough.” We've proven that to ourselves enough times. We admit that we can not handle drugs in any form. We admitted: we say it out loud, if necessary.

We take the first step at the beginning of our day. For one day. This admission frees us, Just For Today, from the need to live out our addiction all over again. We have surrendered to this disease. We give up. We quit. But in quitting, we win. And that's the paradox of the first step: We surrender to win, and by surrendering we gain a far greater power we ever imagine possible

Just For Today: I admit that I am powerless over my addiction. I will surrender to win.

Taken from the JFT

SPONSOR-SPONSEE INTERVIEWS

By Kelly H.

Frank and Mickey

Q: What made you choose your sponsor?

A: I felt that Frank was someone I can talk to, He is someone that have peace of mind and Time clean.

Q: What made you accept Mickey as your Sponsee?

A: Sponsorship is a privilege; if some one sees something in you that they want, and then I feel that you should do your best to help them out.

Q: What are you expecting out of this relationship?

A: Mickey- Someone to help me live life on life's terms, without the use of drugs, and Someone I can talk to without being judged.

Frank- I don't have any expectations, I just tell a sponsee what I did to stay clean.

Q: Are you prepared to do whatever it takes to stay clean, with suggestions given by your Sponsor?

A: Yes, I am prepared to do my best, to follow Frank's suggestions, and to know that my Way do not work.

Ralph and Alan

Q: Is there a specific way that you go about guiding your sponsee through the 12 Steps?

A: I do it like our forefathers did.

Q: How long did it take for you to ask Ralph to be your sponsor?

A: It took me 1 week to ask Ralph.

Q: Did you read the sponsorship pamphlet before choosing your sponsor?

A: Yes, it was really helpful in determining that Ralph is the sponsor for me.

Q: Did you read the sponsorship pamphlet before accepting Alan as your sponsee?

A: Of course I did, my sponsor told me to read it also.

Q: What do you believe make Ralph a good sponsor for you?

A: I would believe that similar life experiences made the connection, not drug usage.

Q: Are their any suggestion that you can give when choosing a sponsor or accepting a Sponsee?

A: Alan: find someone that you are comfortable talking to, as well as someone you can Relate to.

Ralph: Before taking on a sponsee, you should have working knowledge of the 12 & 12 and is relatively happy.

WE, TOO, DO RECOVER

I got clean in a very large city in the eastern United States where the NA meeting list is literally the size of a small book. Having suffered the pain of powerlessness and unmanageability long enough, I decided it was time to make my very first NA meeting, but I had no idea which meeting to choose. I was terrified to attend a meeting near my lower Manhattan apartment building. (My neighbors could not possibly know I was an addict, and I certainly wasn't going to tell them now.) I didn't want to go very far out my way. (If, as I suspected, I didn't like the meeting, I would need to score-fast.) Above all, nobody could recognize me. (I am a terribly important person.)

I felt a rush of hope when I found several Gay and Lesbian meetings (listed as “ special interest” meetings.) Nervously, I walked into my first NA meeting and, surrounded by my gay brothers and lesbian sisters, felt safe for the first time in years. That relief didn't last long: The speaker worked as a copy editor at the newspaper where I was an editor. I listened to her share, raised my hand when they asked for anybody willing to be a sponsor, and, before the Serenity Prayer, ran from the room as fast as my little addict legs would carry me. This was not what I intended, but that was the day the drugs stopped working.

During WCNA-32 in San Antonio, I was struck by how quickly we seemed to focus on whether or not we actually need the common needs meetings that so many members fought so long and hard to have. There had been 32 NA world conventions. Finally, we had gay and lesbian workshops, actually listed in the convention program instead of scribbled on some tattered scrap of paper pinned to a back wall. There was a gay and lesbian dance included in the entertainment line up. And who can forget the heart wrenching moment when a beautiful transgender sister stepped up to the Unity Day podium and read those inclusive words from the “We Do Recover” section of our Little White Book: “It's available to us all.”

I have many gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender addict friends who got clean before the fellowship ever heard of gay and lesbian, special interest, or common needs meetings. I am so grateful they braved the hostility and homophobia they've so often described. Regardless of how, where, why, or when we got clean, can we give each other the very acceptance, tolerance, compassion, and unconditional love that we so desperately crave from our families and society at large without tearing apart the fabric of unity that makes us proud recovering leather queens, college jocks, corporate stars, trannies, homemakers, children, and parents we have fought to become?

I know that i- an openly gay, HIV-positive man- would never have had the courage to set foot in NA had it not been for those “special interest” meetings. I also know there are many LGBT addicts who got clean in NA long before these meetings took root. What I fail to understand, however, is why it continues to matter to so many of us which is the “right” or “better” or “correct” way to get clean! We all have bad hair days, but for heaven's sake, can we stop splitting that particular hair?

Can we, as a gay community of recovering LGBT addicts, stop focusing so much on the “right” way to recover, the “right” meeting to attend, or the “right” opinion to have about things that continue to divide us , when the newcomer screaming for a way out of their despair and pain demand that we put aside our differences and focus on our similarities?

In short: Let's all just get over it! We're here! We're queer! We're Clean! Whether or not we attend the LGBT workshops or went to that dance, can we please all stand up and say “Thank you, NA! We appreciate these gestures of inclusion, acceptance, and love more than mere words can ever convey”

Written By:
Mark H, South Dakota

FUN IN RECOVERY

By Val M.

a r p a d d i c t i o n n w
m o o i n v e n t o r y h r
e a w a k e n i n g e r w c
n m e d i t a t i o n a a s
d t r a d i t i o n s s h a
s e l f - o b s e s s i o n
t r e c o v e r y a n r w i
p i s i e a g i o t s s t t
a h s p i r i t u a l i t y
m u n m a n a g a b l e r l
p m e p r a y e r a v t d p
h b s h o r t c o m i n g s
l l s t e p s r o t r e r a
e e d b s e y o a b w a s l
t n a d m i t t e d c a r s

addiction	admitted	amends
awakening	how	humble
inventory	meditation	pamphlet
powerlessness	prayer	recovery
sanity	self-obsession	shortcomings
spirituality	steps	traditions
unmanageable		

CARTOONS

By Val M.



FOR THE KIDS

THE CLASSIFIEDS

What's going on in Space Coast area:

February 16th- Taste of Recovery- Located at Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
1900 S. Tropical Trail @6pm

What's going on in the Florida Region:

January 17-20- Palm Coast Spiritual Retreat web: www.palmcoastna.org
February 29-March 1- Fifth annual leap of faith and appreciation camp-out Bay
area.

Remember!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The registration form for STACNA is available at every Home group. Register
early!!!!!!

The registration for FRCNA 27 is also available at your Home Groups
See you GSR's for more information

If you have any classifieds that you would like to post, please email them to
spacecoastrecoverydailynews@yahoo.com

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the next newsletter, please email or call.

Special Thanks to those who helped and contributed to the first newsletter of the
New Year.

In Loving Service
Michelle C.

Newsletter Chair: Michelle C.
Reporters: Kelly H., Valerie M., Ralph M., and Shea O.

