



The Tumbleweed Newsletter



Southern Antelope Valley Area Narcotics Anonymous Newsletter

January 4, 2004

Service in the Fellowship: Public Information

The purpose of P.I. (Public Information) is to inform the public that N.A. exists and offers recovery from the disease of addiction. P.I. does presentations to organizations and institutions to help them learn about N.A. P.I. provides Public Service Announcements to T.V. and radio stations. Booths can be found at fairs and flea markets where N.A. members offer information, literature and meeting schedules.

When I came into the rooms of N.A. I followed the suggestions of those that were here before me – go to meetings, get a commitment, and be of service. I became a G.S.R. (Group Service Representative) over 6½ years ago. Part of the G.S.R.'s responsibilities is to have a commitment in one of the sub-committees. I chose to become a part of P.I. Up until then I was just a member of N.A. Being of service has made feel like I'm an active part of N.A. This helps me to feel I am right where I belong.

So if you're looking to become a part of N.A. get involved in service – Public Information is a great service commitment.

Pauline Y.C.

This time it will be different

This time it will be different
That's what I use to say
This time it will be different
Because today is a new day
This time it will be different
I will be in control
I'll only use in the mornings
No one ever has to know
This time it will be different
Hey it's a different kind of drug
I got myself off vicodin
I just replaced it with a dub
This time it will be different
It doesn't take me to that height
If I only use in the mornings
Then I'll still sleep at night
This time it was different
I regretfully say
This time it was different
It took me all the way
This time it was different
I won't see the other side
There's no where left to run to
There's no where left to hide
This time it was different
There's no need to be brave
This time it was different
It put me in my grave

Bobbi L.

Birthdays

Gail V.....12-2-02 Family Joe.....12-21-97
Pauline Y.C.....12-24-96 Omer W.....12-19-92

Spiritual Principle

HONEST – not deceptive: truthful, not fraudulent: genuine, of good repute, frank: sincere

Opposites (Character Defects) – dishonest, untruthful, liar, unloyal, corrupt, deceit, cheat, insincere

Upcoming S.A.V.A.N.A. Events

Women's Breakfast – February 21st at the Christ of King Church at 9am. Speaker Meeting. \$5.00

Men's Breakfast – March 27th at the Christ of King Church at 9am. Speaker Meeting. \$5.00

Tradition 5 “Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.”

After reviewing the 5th tradition in It Works How and Why, the word that first got my attention was INTEGRITY. And, the definition I most related to in the dictionary was “moral soundness”. Again, referring to our literature, this tradition asks us to practice integrity by keeping our primary purpose foremost.

It explains that our fundamental reason for our groups existence is “to carry the message to the addict who still suffers” and cites examples that could dilute this purpose. Some of these are that although each group is autonomous and has its own character, that the character of the group is not the primary purpose. We are encouraged to keep the focus of our primary purpose clear and not blur our focus. We must carry the message of Narcotics Anonymous and the principles of recovery.

My interpretation of this is that even though each group is autonomous it does not cancel out the principles in the other traditions. We must not hang on to a few words of rhetoric in one tradition to diminish the meaning in another. Some of us tend to hang on to certain phrases like a pit bull to try and prove our point. We must be flexible and open and be familiar with ALL of our traditions to avoid misinterpretations. We must search our purpose and intentions when using any tradition and we must become familiar with the CONCEPTS to further understand how to fairly settle other issues involved in service.

Our literature further instructs us and gives us examples of our primary purpose and tells us that nothing can take precedence over it. It tells us to create and atmosphere of recovery. And, what is an atmosphere of recovery? Do we welcome every addict who attends? Do we carry a message of recovery? Do we start the meeting on time? Do we have a format that keeps the primary purpose in focus and encourages the members to share in a way that expresses recovery?

Do we allow distracting influences that divert from our primary purpose? Are we supposed to talk about a baby shower or movie we saw or about our finances? Are we supposed to talk about politics or bring up some N.A. controversy? I THINK NOT!

Are we reaching out to the newcomer by focusing on how we maintain recovery through working the 12 steps, attending meetings and taking suggestions from our sponsor? Are we welcoming the newcomers by talking to them before or after the meeting or at the break? Do we give them literature and phone numbers?

I urge each of you to read and stay vigilant in adhering to all of our traditions. Study these in It Works How and Why to avoid violating any of them. Our book tells us that the 5th tradition complements the 12th step which asks that groups carry the message to addicts. It tells us that the principles we have applied to help us observe the 5th tradition are INTEGRITY, RESPONSIBILITY, UNITY, and ANONYMITY. Our primary purpose is described as a common thread that unites us, defines the focus of N.A., and helps to ensure our survival as a fellowship.

Your Trusted Servant-----Reprinted from the Tumbleweed September-October 1998

Service Committees

Area Meeting – 1st Sunday at the Arid Club at 2:00pm,

H&I – 4th Thursday at Lancaster United Methodist Church room 14 at 7:30pm,

Activities – 3rd Thursday at Church of Christ at 6:30pm,

Phone lines/PI – 4th Saturday at St. Stephens Church. Potluck begins at 5:30pm,

Newsletter – 2nd Friday at a Church of Christ at 6:30pm.

Convention – 3rd Wednesday at the R.S.O. in Monrovia 7:30pm.

Helpful Info

Tumbleweed Newsletter % S.A.V.A.N.A.
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