

Sharing the Message



October/November 2021

The Ozark Area Newsletter

www.ozarkasc.com

24 Hour Helpline 1-888-359-3339

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Serving Southwest Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma, and Southeast Kansas including Joplin, Webb City, Carthage, Lamar, Nevada, El Dorado Springs, Neosho, Fort Scott, Pittsburg, Grove and Miami.

HELLO!

After taking a couple of months off, we are "back at it" and ready to ramp up the Ozark Area Newsletter! Please have your GSR send us Homegroup Information, Birthdays and upcoming events! Plus if you have topics or information that you want to share, or if you want to be a part of the Ozarks Area Newsletter, let us know that too!

Thank you for letting us be of service!

NEWLETTER CHAIR - Rufus P.

Email: ozarkarea@gmail.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

See our website for a complete list of events, times and information:

WWW.OZARKASC.COM

OCTOBER 22ND 6:30PM

WE DO RECOVER

**POTLUCK FUNDRAISER/BIRTHDAY NIGHT
829 MAIN ST. JOPLIN**

OCTOBER 29TH 6:00PM

**5TH TRADITION BIRTHDAY BASH
ADULT/KIDS COSTUME PARTY**

CHURCH BASEMENT 20TH & WALL JOPLIN

NOVEMBER 6TH 4:00PM

**OZARK AREA CHILI COOKOFF
THE ROCC 1402 S. MAIN ST**

CLEAN TIME CELEBRATIONS

10-9-13.....SHELIE V.

10-20-07.....MARK M.

10-31-20.....CINDY K.

11-1-16.....GEORGIA B.

11-6-15.....BRIAN D.

11-08-06.....ANGELA G.

11-10-08.....CRAIG C.

11-19-18.....MATT D.

11-20-18.....RUFUS P.

11-22-19.....TIMOTHY H.

11-27-17.....WILL J.

**"Our message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live.
Our message is hope and the promise of freedom"**

Basic Text, page 65

OZARK AREA OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



Chili



Cook-Off

\$5 ENTRY FEE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

4:00 P.M.

THE R.O.C.C.

1402 S. Main Street Joplin, MO 64801

50/50

\$3 a person \$5 a couple
(No addict turned away)

RAFFLE

Speaker:

BRANDON B.

SPRINGFIELD, MO



EAT AT 4:00

CHILI JUDGING 5:30

SPEAKER AT 6:00



OUR MEMBERS SHARE...



Service!

Being of service in narcotics anonymous taught me how to be of service in my community too. - Georgia B.



I can't do a lot of the things in NA because I don't have the clean time. I have noticed in my life that when I open doors for strangers, feed the homeless, clean up after other people, do random acts of kindness, I feel a satisfaction that is priceless! The more I give the happier I get because I can only keep what I have by giving it away. Things like letting my neighbors use my wifi, buying some chocolate for my co-workers, cleaning a table that isn't mine, getting a coffee for my other coworkers gives me a sense of service with lots of joy. - Martha V.

Being of service is as simple as just showing up. Being present at your home group. Working steps with a sponsor and sharing about it. Being of service is as simple as showing others how you stay clean through the Narcotics Anonymous program.
- Luke L.



Service helped me be more plugged in to my home group & take even more ownership of my recovery. From emptying ash trays, making coffee & cleaning up, to business meetings, it all helped me begin to become a 'productive member of society'. It helped shape my values in many ways as well. It was a way to give a little something back to what was so freely offered to me. - Poppy W.

Our members share, on Service...



"Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers." (NA Basic Text page xxvi)

If all 12 steps are equally essential for my recovery, then the 12th step is no more important than step 1, or step 4, or step 9. Step 12 tells me to try to carry the message to addicts and to practice these principles in all of my affairs. I cannot stay clean and in recovery without carrying the message. Since we are directed that everything occurring in NA Service must be motivated by carrying the message, then it stands to reason that I stay involved in service to NA so that I can stay clean and in recovery. To me, service is not a separate thing from practicing a program of recovery, service is practicing a program of recovery. NA dies if there are no newcomers learning how to work the steps from longer term members so they can then teach newer comers how to work the steps when they become longer term members. We attract newcomers by carrying the NA Message.

"The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live." (NA basic text page 68)

I was taught that anything that helps carry the message is service, and that includes anything that helps the groups to function, from making coffee, to filling up the sugar dispensers, to acting as the group's service representative, GSR. Greeting new people we haven't met yet is service calling our sponsor is service and picking up cigarette butts outside the meeting place is service. All these things help carry the message of recovery to addicts. It is a message that we are here and we are responsible for ourselves today. It is a message of hope and a promise of freedom. Joining the homegroup is service because we are committing ourselves to be there and help a group of people we choose. We have a choice today. Attending and listening at our home group business meeting is service. We can choose to commit to help our group in other ways, but we won't know what is needed from us if we don't go to the business meeting.

I would have died in my addiction without my home group when I first got clean. They literally held me together from meeting to meeting. If they hadn't been responsible and had the doors open and the meetings held when they said they would, I would have been lost to the insanity. This is just as true today for me. Nothing will erase the thought of using as well as any other nagging character defect as the act of helping another addict by being of service. The ultimate NA weapon against the disease of addiction is the recovering addict. - Pam M.



I'm thinking that picking people up for meetings is important. We could get a list of a few people that would need help and those willing to help. Of course sponsoring and chairing meetings is very good too. Greet people and welcome newcomers. Be kind. Help old ladies to the car, lol!
- Cindy K.

My experience, strength and hope I can offer in regards to service:

In the beginning, I took every service commitment I could find just to keep me clean. Then I started getting busy living also and it became very overwhelming, very quickly.

I suggest that you take it one step at a time. Take one thing and see that through for a couple months and then you can take on more if you are able. Slow and steady always wins the race! - Ginette G.

Service work helps me stay clean. Being a part of the group is important to me. It holds me accountable.
- Caroline J.

I like service work to jails and institutions. I did it in Wichita Kansas for 2 years.
- Aubrey

Service starts with self. Can't take care of anything outside of yourself until you take care of yourself first.
- Matt D.

OUR MEMBERS SHARE...

Our basic text tells us that it is beneficial to allow others in the group to help us. In time, we will be able to pass on what we have been given. We learn that service to others will get us out of ourselves. I participate in service because it keeps me clean. Whether it's through signing my name on a phone list, working a step with a sponsee, or being of service at an area level. Service work has taught me integrity. Being able to sit in the same room with someone who I don't see eye to eye with and being part of the solution for the benefit of the greater good. I didn't know how to live when I got to Narcotics Anonymous. Service work helps me develop life skills. - Sarah P.



Service work could be anything from picking up cigarette butts to making coffee, greeting the newcomer at the door, volunteering at functions. Or it could be as extravagant as holding a service position at area or region, possibly even world. - Rick T.

Service... ...will keep you clean!

H&I, Chairing meetings, picking up cigarette butts, attending business meetings, going to area, helping at functions, sponsorship! - Sonia M.

I always found that when I got out of myself and was of service, the committee in my head was rendered powerless. - Steve D.

Being of service was something that came naturally for this people-pleaser! Back at the old WeDo (before covid) there were literally dozens of coffee cups to wash after the evening meetings. Then as I got more comfortable being around people, I started getting involved with my home group. Attending meetings and "being a part." I volunteered to co-chair meetings with Rob before he passed away. What a sweet guy. I am so thankful that Narcotics Anonymous was here when I got here, because I REALLY needed it... and still need it today, and everyday. Grateful and Thankful. - Rufus P.



Steps to Recovery

Y S S G K G R Z F I W T X K I S L V A H P S X L
L E X P K X N A N P L J A I T X G V D A O T T S
M C G Q F Y G V G D Q W I X T A U A M S L W N E
H I S G N K E E Z W M O R Q B A I R I V D H E R
P O K X F N P X R W M O S S C S D A T C Z O M V
Q H O W T C M S U A S V U E A J A P T Z T F T I
R C J O O R L Z C N H R E O C L N W I K B U T C
E M R X A C U O O A R S J A I N C J N O X E I E
W Y O A N Y W P D E V Y N O W C E Y G R L W M J
O D L D U S S D N E U T Z I P D L U K R O V M H
P G E Q P A I D H A R I L H W G U Q Q X C P O O
R K S N Q C E B T Y G L X E E E P G V E V Q C Z
E U N B T R S Y R R I I U R D H K B F J S C M R
H Z U I M W U E A N I M C K W T I C H Q Y N W Z
G P O O C V T G T E U P Y V T E R Z M T G O E
I N C B F O I N I T P H Y U P Q M Z G U N I A C
H V N S C T E G V F X J T S Y V T K C O U D T J
H O P E U S F O R G I V I N G A W A K E N I N G
C D R D S Z G J T H Q R N V E X P E R I E N C E
X C E U K P T L F G B B E Z M O B B A B S Q C E
E P O H S T W K A Q U O R L O O D U V H B P V B
H C H I H Q S O B E R C E Y W C D P Z I G M K F
R T V B M I U E X T R G S H A L T S C Q N A X I
I C O N F I D E H T G N E R T S Q D C E C I M N

guidance

inventory

forgiving

strength

hope

gratitude

addiction

serenity

sponsor

awakening

experience

confide

consequences

commitment

higher power

admitting

halt

willingness

choices

service

surrender

humility

share

counselor

recovery

Service is Love...

So, to me, service is what our program is all about.

It's our 12th Step and our Primary Purpose.

My understanding of the steps is that they're a guide for living in a way that you don't want to escape from.

The biggest way that we learn to do this is to not focus on helping ourselves, but helping others. Another thought I have is that this isn't meant to be only practiced inside the rooms, or with other addicts, but in all of our affairs.

My favorite sponsor ever used to reply with "Go help somebody."

When I complained or spoke about my problems. Nine out of 10 times I found that answer to be correct. - Tony M.

BREAK THE CHAINS OF ADDICTION NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS CAN HELP!



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NA Service Prayer

God grant us the knowledge that we may work according to your great divine precepts. Install in us a sense of your purpose. Make us servants of your will and grant us a bond of selflessness, that no addict anywhere need die from the horrors of addiction.

OUR MEMBERS SHARE...



Service!

We all have roles to play, because we have different talents. Some may be good at Public Speaking, some may be good at making money, some may help members get to meetings, others make snacks. What are your talents? We all have one. What is yours? - Michael P.



THANK YOU! To everyone that took time to be of service and share your experience, strength and hope in this month's issue. If you would like to share poetry, art or any other NA related content, please email it to: ozarkarea@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

**MEETING SCHEDULES, CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
READINGS AND MUCH OF OUR LITERATURE
CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:**

WWW.OZARKASC.COM