

Sharing the Message



January/February 2020

The Ozark Area Newsletter

www.ozarkasc.com

24 Hour Helpline 1-888-359-3339

Vol. 1

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

HELLO!

Hello, and welcome to the first edition of the Ozarks Area Newsletter for 2020!

We hope that you enjoy and participate in this newsletter, submitting your stories, poems, artwork, cartoons, cleantime anniversaries, upcoming NA events and anything else you would like to share!

Please email submissions to:
OZARKAREA@GMAIL.COM

The message theme for this edition is HOPE.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE.
OZARK AREA P&I COMMITTEE

UPCOMING EVENTS

CABIN FEVER

FEBRUARY 7, 8, 9
LODGE /FOUR SEASONS
LAKE OF THE OZARKS

WE DO RECOVER

MARCH 21ST
31ST ANNUAL BIRTHDAY
BASH & SPEAKER JAM

YOUR EVENT HERE!

EMAIL US:
OZARKAREA@GMAIL.COM

CLEANTIME ANNIVERSARIES!

PLEASE EMAIL US
YOUR CLEAN TIME
ANNIVERSARIES TO:
OZARKAREA@GMAIL.COM
so we can celebrate with you!

OUR MESSAGE

**"an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs,
lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live"**

Basic Text - 6th Edition

OZARK AREA NEWSLETTER

OUR WEBSITE: OZARKASC.COM
OUR HELPLINE: 1-888-359-3339



HOW IT WORKS...



If you want what we have to offer, and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. These are the principles that made our recovery possible.

1. We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practise these principles in all our affairs.

"Alone I Can't, Together We Can!"

OZARK AREA NEWSLETTER

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH & HOPE

"THERE IS HOPE!"

Hi my name is Jocelyn and I'm an Addict. My clean date is 8/11/08.

The rooms of Narcotics Anonymous have a message: 'An addict, any addict can lose the desire to use and find a new way to live.' I didn't believe it was possible for me.

Just a brief history on me: I'm a 38 year meth addict who has spent most of her adult life as a criminal and homeless. I lived with my minor son in a refrigerator box on skid row in Los Angeles, California for a year. That wasn't enough to stop my addiction. I ran to Missouri thinking I was going to start a new life, but where I went, there I was. I continued to use and went to prison twice for drug related criminal activity. I was homeless, strung out, alone, hungry with nowhere to go: Life was Hopeless.

One day I was 50 years old with a back pack on my back standing on a corner and realized I had nowhere to go (burned so many bridges), nothing to eat (was very hungry), and my boys didn't talk about grandma to their children.

Across the street was a NA meeting; I crawled through the doors.

Since I've been in recovery I discovered it's okay to dream and dream big. They told me to be all I can be so I went for it. I went to school and obtained a bachelor's in sociology and a master's in criminal justice. I started working in the substance abuse field and obtained a CRADC credential. I currently am a shelter director where I combat the disease on the front lines.

What I learned in recovery is this: That junkie, homeless, felon has so much gratitude for recovery. Without it I certainly would not be that homeless person that helps the homeless today. I would not be that recovering addict that sponsor's other women showing them there is a better way to live, and that felon with a master's degree in criminal justice breaking the stigma once a felon your life is over; I got a career where I can share the message with still suffering addicts on a daily basis.

My message is THERE IS HOPE!!!!

OZARK AREA OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS NEWSLETTER

WEBSITE: OZARKASC.COM

**WORD
SEARCH**

Sponsor Love

**WORD
SEARCH**



wisdom	courage	serenity	Honest
Meetings	Together	Speaker	Faith
Hope	Spiritual	Traditions	NA
Concepts	Twelve	Steps	Home Group
Sponsee	Recovery	Love	Sponsor

Thanks to
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for this
Word
Search!

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

Send us your **STORIES, CARTOONS, ARTWORK & MORE!**

Email your submissions to: OZARKAREA@GMAIL.COM

OZARK AREA NEWSLETTER

"HOPESHOT"

I could go out and use today, but I have found a new way to live! When I came to the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous I was sick. I wasn't sick in the traditional sense... my temperature wasn't high, my blood pressure was normal. I didn't have a cold or the flu, but I was sick. My sickness was in my heart and in my head and in my very core. I had travelled over the line in my drug use and I was addicted. I don't remember exactly when it happened, but it happened just the same. And when I realized it, it was too late. I couldn't quit on my own. I had lost the ability to change my ways. This began a sad spiral downward in my life. I became hopeless, depressed, resentful, ashamed, irritable and not much fun to be around.

I was addicted. And when I realized it, I stayed that way for several more years. The money hadn't run out and I hadn't got arrested yet, so I hadn't hit bottom. (But I could see it coming and still couldn't do anything about it). About this time, I found out that my niece had gotten clean with the program of Narcotics Anonymous. I had no idea that she even had a drug problem! To me, this was God at work in my life, and a "Hopeshot" that there was a different way to live!

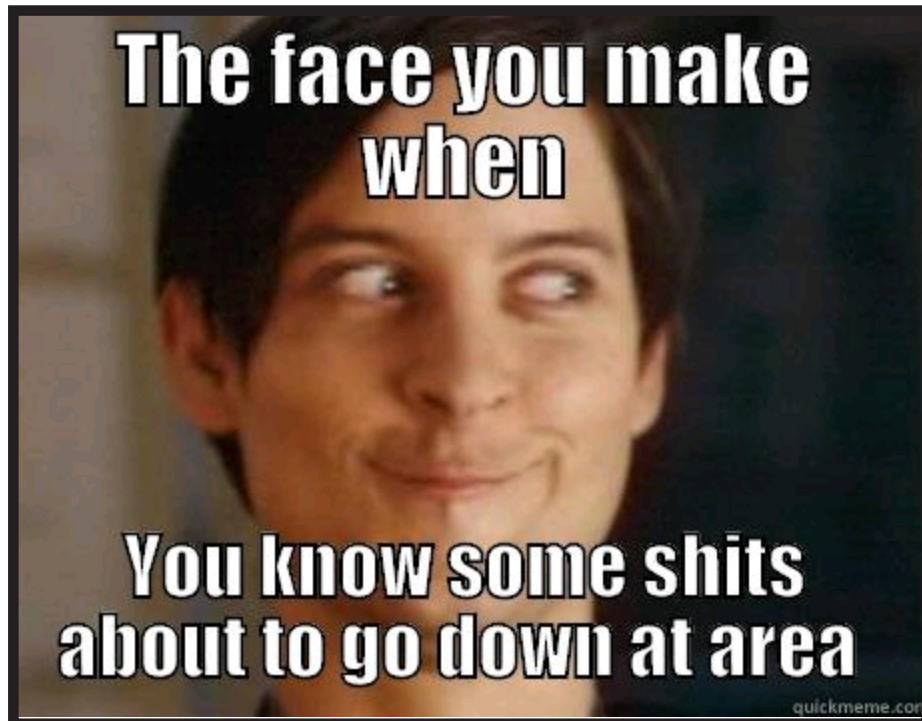
So, as a result of my drug use, I did get arrested and as that officer placed those handcuffs on me, I breathed a sigh of relief because I knew all those years of "running and gunning" lying, dodging and acting on my first-thought-wrong behavior was over. I attended my first NA meeting on November 26th, 2018 and had no idea how much the Rooms of Narcotics Anonymous would change my life. At that first meeting, I learned that addiction is a disease and not a moral weakness. I liked that! I learned that I never had to use again! I had the gift of desperation and I loved what I was hearing. Shortly after getting a white keytag, I got a sponsor and started working the steps. Since that time, I have been of service, made coffee, washed dishes, chaired meetings and when the program of Narcotics Anonymous asked me to do something, I said "Yes."

NA has changed my life and gratitude is what I feel! Some of the things I've learned since getting to the rooms include: Go to meetings, turn off my phone, get a sponsor, work steps, be of service, pray and meditate, love others the way NA members loved me when I got here and don't pickup no matter what. I am a grateful recovering addict today and I have you and every other member of Narcotics Anonymous to thank. (a grateful recovering addict)

JUST FOR A LAUGH



Thanks to Ben Ben 2008



THANK YOU!



Please be a part of your Ozark Area Newsletter!
Send your stories, artwork poetry and musings today!
Email us at: ozarkarea@gmail.com