

**A Compilation of the
Histories of the
Groups of
The Mid-America Region
of
Narcotics Anonymous**



**Compiled by the Groups
and published by the
Outreach and Literature Subcommittees of
The Mid-America Region**

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We start with a brief summary of the history of the

Mid – America Region

July 1977 – 1st NA Newsletter published outside California came from Kansas.

July 1979 – 1st Mid-America Regional Campout – Camp Hawk, Newton

January 1, 1980 – First records of Mid-America Newsletter address card file.

May 1980 – Cindy Porter and Ron Decker, representatives of Mid-America Region attend 1st High On Life Campout and asked if Missouri would like to join. The Ozark Area was formed and admitted to the Mid-America Region.

July 1980 – 2nd Regional Campout – Harvey County West Park, Newton

September 1980 – 10th Annual World Convention held in Wichita (approx. 350 members attended).

July 1981 – 3rd Annual Campout – Farnum Creek area, Milford Lake, Junction City.

March 1982 – By March, the number of groups had tripled. Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas had joined by then. Groups could be found in Fayetteville, AR, Council Bluffs IA, Waterloo IA. In Kansas there was Colby, Dodge City, Emporia, Kansas City, Lawrence, Salina, Newton, Topeka and Wichita. Missouri had Joplin, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield and Jefferson City. Nebraska had Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney. Oklahoma had Enid, Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The first Mid-America directory was published from the new Mid-America Regional Office in Topeka.

July 1982 – 4th Annual Campout – Milford Lake, Junction City.

December 31, 1982 – 2nd Annual Clean & Crazy New Years Eve Bash – Topeka

April 1-3, 1983 – 1st Mid-America Regional Convention – Lake Ozark, MO. (approx. 110 attended) Lynn A. - NY and Motorcycle Ed - GA spoke.

July 1983 – 5th Annual Campout – Perry Lake, KS

January 1984 – Mid-America Regional Newsletter turns subscription, 6 issues for \$5.00.

March 1984 – 2nd Regional Convention – Lake Ozark, MO. (approx. 300 attended)

April 1984 – Missouri officially broke away from the Mid-America Region (with blessing) and was seated at WSC as the Show Me Region.

July 1984 – 6th Annual Campout – Harvey County West Park, Newton

November 1984 – “Together Again for the 1st time”, 1st State Round – Up & workshops, Wichita

June 1985 – Oklahoma breaks away to form own region. All other states had broke away by then, leaving Kansas to carry the name.

The rest of this publication will be devoted to the histories of our Groups. The stories are listed in the order that they were received and no other.

Keep Coming Back NA – Hoisington

Central Kansas

We have found a report by the Central Kansas Area noting the addition of a new group, the “Hoisington Women’s Group” in approximately June 1982. It is our understanding that this group folded sometime before the Parkside Treatment Center was started in October of 1982. The group that exists now was formed very shortly after the opening of Parkside Treatment Center.

In the Mid-America Newsletter for October-November 1984 it notes “Hoisington has a meeting! They meet Monday night at 7:30 in the basement of the rectory of the Catholic Church located at 5th and Main. Everyone Welcome.” Archives and memories show the group remained there until sometime in 1985 when it moved to the basement of the Convent at 5th and Walnut. The meeting continued at that location until 09/26/94 - as noted in the group notebook, when it held its first meeting in a house located at 4th and Green, sharing a building with another 12 step recovery program. The group remained there through April of 1996. At that time we had outgrown our existing facility and opted to move to a larger building located at 165 W. 2nd Street. Then on May of 2001, the group moved to 106 N. Walnut, where it continues to meet at the present time. This move was due to the building’s condition. The roof fell in during a snowstorm and many of the archives were lost due to water damage.

Members continue to share stories that for quite awhile after moving the group from the Green Street house, addicts would show up and walk right in looking for meetings. The occupants who were living in the house would kindly steer them in the right direction; they never seemed to mind the intrusion.

Due to treatment centers opening and closing, meeting attendance has fluctuated over the years. Records show in 1988 average attendance at meetings were 10 addicts; 1994 averaged five addicts per meeting; 1997 averaged 13 addicts per meeting; and 2001 averaged 16 addicts in attendance.

Found in archives were the following certificates:

- On April 29, 1986, Hoisington NA Group received a “Certificate of Recognition” for attaining special honor of excellence for Volunteer Services from Parkside Treatment Center, which was located at the Hoisington Lutheran Hospital.
- On November 11, 1987, Hoisington NA Group received the “Red Mackenzie Narcotics Anonymous Party Association Membership” certifying and registering them as official members of the RMNAPA. Red says, “If you want to hang with me, you gotta be drug free!”

Some activities the Hoisington NA Group was involved in include:

- On March 15, 1986, Hoisington and Great Bend NA groups sponsored a dance, dinner, auction, raffle and speaker meeting to benefit the 4th of July campout. It began at 6:00 p.m. at 109 E. 1st Street in Hoisington.
- Originally, Hoisington NA hosted the “Chili Bowl” in the basement of the Catholic Church in Hoisington. At some point, due to lack of funds, Great Bend “High On Life” NA offered to host this function and it continues annually.
- 1984-1992 Hoisington NA hosted an annual campout.

- On February 26th, 1995, the group voted to change the name from Hoisington NA Group to Hoisington “Keep Coming Back” NA Group.
- 1995-present Hoisington “Keep Coming Back” NA Group has hosted an annual “Day in the Park” function. This activity has missed only one year, that being 2001. This was due to the loss of park facilities used by the April 21st tornado.
- May 11th, 2002, Central Kansas Area and it’s groups voted to centralize the CKASC meeting at the Hoisington “Keep Coming Back” NA Group for one year.
- September 5th, 2002, the group members voted on an “official group T-shirt” that will be coming out soon.

As far as we can tell, the Hoisington “Keep Coming Back” NA Group is the longest consecutively running Narcotics Anonymous Group in the Central Kansas Area. The Hoisington “Keep Coming Back” NA Group continues to have meetings on Monday and Thursday nights at 7:30pm, @ 106 N. Walnut. We appreciate all the support we receive and a special “Thanks” to those members who made this search of our history possible by forming this group in the early 1980s.

Yawan – Concordia *Concordia*

The Yawan Group of Narcotics Anonymous was the brainchild of two women who had recently been through the St. John’s Treatment Center in Salina. In early 1988, Janey and Jan telephoned people in the surrounding area who were involved with 12 step recovery to see if there was interest in forming an NA group. Those who were interested held a meeting in Glasco with people from Clyde, Beloit, Galsco, Asherville and Osborne in attendance. At that meeting it was decided that a meeting would be started in Concordia, since that seemed to be a central location for all involved. The meeting time was set for 7:00pm.

St. John’s Outreach had an office at 510 State Street that was available in the evenings for 12 Step groups so it was decided to hold the meeting there.

The name YAWAN was chosen by group conscience. YAWAN is actually NA WAY spelled backwards.

After a few years it was decided to add a meeting at the same location on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm. This meeting continued for several years then was disbanded due to low attendance.

The YAWAN NA Group voted their first year that NA Conference registration would be paid for any members who wanted to attend. YAWAN has also voted to rent a “group room” at several conferences to accommodate people who could not afford to rent a room on their own.

Meeting attendance has been anywhere from 4 to 40 in the years since YAWAN began meeting. Current attendance ranges from 5 – 15 at most meetings.

The Pioneer Group *Emporia*

The Emporia Pioneer Group of Narcotics Anonymous was started in 1981 by Steve and Gus. At that time there was one meeting a week held on Thursdays. This original group disbanded in 1985 and there were no NA meetings held again until the spring of 1987. Pat M., Sandy and one other addict started meet-

ing in the basement of the Corner House at 418 Market Street. There were just two meetings a week until 1989 when that number more than doubled. Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings were the five times during the week that NA recovery could be shared. As the group grew, another meeting was added; Friday evenings. This Friday evening meeting was such a success the space soon became a problem. So, Friday night meetings were moved to the KIS (Keep It Simple) sobriety club at 325 Commercial Street. This was also where the monthly clean-time birthday celebrations were held. Membership continued to grow for the Pioneer Group at the Corner House. Some meetings were so crowded that even the floor space was occupied. This prompted the March 1991 move for the Pioneer Group to its present location at 1107B Commercial Street. Shortly after the move, an information phone line was installed and two more meetings were added to the schedule. There was a Narcotics Anonymous meeting available every day of the week in Emporia. Two meetings were non-smoking and another was added on Saturday evenings at 6:30pm, which became known as the Saturday early meeting. This brought our number of meeting times per week to nine. Interest for a noon meeting began during the summer of 1992. In August of that year, a Monday noon, as well as Friday noon meeting was started on a trial basis. These two meetings and a Wednesday midnight candlelight meeting were added to our regular schedule. The candlelight meeting and Saturday early meeting closed around April of 1996. During the summer of 1996, a group conscience was held on whether or not to include “The Lord’s Prayer” in our format. It was determined that the group would use only the Gratitude and Third Step Prayer for closing. This caused much controversy among the members. The result of which was the beginning of a second NA group in Emporia. Today, Pioneer Group of NA meets eleven times a week at 1107B Commercial Street and our information phone number is 620-343-0072.

Better Way *Topeka*

“Better Way” was formed on January 1, 2002, New Years Day. This was on a Tuesday. We were located at 1533 SW College, right across the street from the three Oxford houses. This was one of David L.’s rental houses that we were in. A group of addicts put that place together in a short period of time so that we could have a place to hang out and hold NA meetings if we wanted to.

This meeting was started by a group of addicts just wanting to hang out on New Year’s Day – playing cards, dominoes, eating good food and fellowshiping. Our intentions were to hold marathon meetings all that day, but we ended up having a couple of meetings and just simply hanging out. We all decided that day that we were going to keep the spark going and start a new NA meeting in this area.

Bruce H., William H., Carol H., Raymona T., Shelly S., Sara F., Kim R., Whimpee R. and David L. – these names are the first original members of the group.

This Area’s Outreach committee played a big role in us being recognized as a group. They saw something in us. This meeting started out as being “Minority Outreach”, targeting minorities who are in recovery. We wanted a place for gays, blacks, etc...to have a place to go and to feel comfortable where they were at. Fellowship For Freedom Area shot down the idea for a minority meeting, it didn’t pass at Area level. We were really disappointed how things

turned out. We didn't stop there, by the grace of "God" we continued to keep "hope alive". We were still determined, and motivated to put this new meeting on the map.

One of our NA brothers by the name of Toby reached out to us. He saw how "dedicated" we were to this new idea, so, from the kindness of his heart, he presented a check to the group in the amount of \$50, so that we could get this meeting off the ground. Thanks to Toby, we were able to purchase all the literature that we needed to start up the meeting. Toby will always be on the group's "gratitude list".

Every Tuesday evening from 7:00pm until 8:00pm we kept the doors open no matter what, we were trying to reach the still suffering addict. That is our primary purpose, to carry the message.

We took a group conscience to name this newfound group (meeting), and "Better Way" was decided upon. We have all service positions filled (trusted Servants) – Bruce H. (GSR), Kim R. (alt. GSR), Sara F. (secretary) and Shelly S. (treasurer).

The meeting started out with less than 10 people showing up for the meeting each week for about 90 days, then several other people started filtering in. At times, one person would have to read a couple of the NA readings, that's how small we were at first. But as time passed, I am very proud to say that "Better Way" is over 50 members strong and still growing. Our record attendance is "84" addicts at one meeting. That was totally awesome to see so many addicts who actually wanted to recover.

We were considered a "gypsy group" at one time because we changed locations a couple of times. We started at 1533 SW College, then to 1268 SW Polk and now we are formally at 600 SW Topeka Blvd. (First United Methodist Church – the suite building). We are no longer a "gypsy group", this is our new permanent home.

Because of the size of the group that we have now, we had to extend "Better Way" an extra 30 minutes. The meetings now start at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm. A group conscience was taken and everyone voted unanimously.

We are now seated at Area because of our dedication and our willingness to keep this dream alive. "Better Way's" motto is "Together We Can Do It".

In Loving Service,
Bruce H. (GSR)

I am also proud to announce that we are finally on the meeting list schedule for this Area and we are on the phone line as well.

Late Night with NA

Topeka

The Late Night with NA group is in Topeka, Kansas, and is part of the Fellowship For Freedom Area.

We started the group in March of 1994. The group started out meeting two nights a week, Tuesday's and Saturday's, from 11:30pm to 12:30am. As the group evolved we added another day, Thursday, and an extra half-hour, 11:30pm to 1:00am.

The idea for having a late night meeting was two fold; 1) the addict who organized the meeting wanted a meeting when he was up late at night, 2) addicts who work 3 – 11pm did not have a meeting they could go to after work.

Recovery Is Possible

In October 1996 several recovering addicts got together and started a new Narcotics Anonymous Group called Recovery is Possible – "RIP" for short. Our group was small and started in the basement of an A.A. hall on 7th Street. After the first year having meetings three nights a week we started having H&I meetings at the VA Hospital in Leavenworth. We also became members of the Mo-Kan Area. After three years, in December of 1999 we moved to our new home at 601 North 5th Street. Our membership is about 35 and we carry the NA message not only to the VA but to the Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth and U.S. Honor Farm at the Leavenworth Penitentiary. Our public information chairperson replaces NA literature, information pamphlets, and meeting information not only in Leavenworth but many surrounding towns. We are now members of the Miracle Area and Mid-America Region since 2001. We have 14 meetings a week, two noon book study meetings and two evening book study meetings. All trusted servant positions are filled and much service work is being done. We will be celebrating our 6th Anniversary October 12, 2002. With the theme "Six Years of Miracles". Thank God for Miracles.

Night Flyers NA

Lyons

Night Flyers Narcotics Anonymous was established in March of 2000. We started off very small with a Basic Text and a few (3 - 4) in attendance. A lot of times one of us would open the doors and no one would show. We kept the doors open. Eventually, addicts came searching for recovery, a lot due to papers; it's still a meeting. We didn't get our name until a few months later. To some of us our name reminds us of who we used to be and why we keep coming back. Two of our members went to other groups to help us get started and that's how we got our literature and format. By September we had our first Public Information function and didn't realize that's what it was until later. We had a table and some IPs at our community fair on the square; we then had a rainy barbeque. Also, that same month, we became part of an Area and were registered as a living group. We are a part of the Primary Purpose Area. We started to get willingness for trusted servants. We were rolling by 2001. We have 2 functions a year. The first one is in March, to celebrate the life of our group and the second, our Public Information, to carry the message. Our attendance grows all the time with constant flow of newcomers and we celebrate lots of birthdays. We have 5 meetings a week and all are going well. As with any other group we have our struggles but we get through with unity. Our NA family gets together and has activities that involve their whole families. We are on our way to our 4th year and we're still here. We plan on having the doors open to recovery for many years to come. Thanks for letting us be a part of a big, wonderful family. We are grateful today.

Night Flyers NA family
2002

MOA Group History

Manhattan

Miracle on Anderson was started in December of 1996. Marko F. moved to Manhattan to do graduate work at KSU. There was no NA meetings in Manhattan at that time even though he had been told there were. He attended an AA meeting just to have a meeting to attend. There he got Devon D.'s phone number from someone. He called her. She and Brent S. went to Marko's studio in the old KSU football stadium and the first NA Meeting was held.

Marko was staying at the Lutheran Campus Ministries house (at Anderson and Denison, hence the name Miracle on Anderson) while he did his grad work at KSU. He talked to the Pastor for the L.C.M. house about being able to hold NA meetings there. The Pastor agreed and meetings were held on Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. More people started to come so a meeting was added on Thursday nights. The meetings stayed at the L.C.M. until the group started getting too big. In Sept of 1999 the group moved its Monday and Thursday meetings to the University Christian Church at Browning and Claflin. Several other meetings have been added over the years. Sunday and Friday at the Douglas Center eventually died out but Tuesday night at the Flint Hills Job Corps is still going. This meeting gets a lot of young newcomers from the facility so could always use the experience, strength, and hope of some older members. Last year the group decided that since we were no longer meeting on Anderson the name should be changed but out of respect for tradition we just shortened it to MOA. We have recently added a Wednesday noon meeting and have a men's step working meeting Monday before the regular meeting and a women's step working meeting before the Thursday meeting. Attendance is growing and we are getting a very strong core group. Please come visit us.

Newton How - first five years

Here is a summary of information from the first five years of HOW of Newton's minutes, and some from my memory rusty as it may be. Glenda P.

The first meeting of the Newton NA was held on the first Saturday of January in 1979 in basement of the Farm House Women's Facility (a local drug treatment center) on East 1st Street in Newton. The first business meeting was held on January 27 with 3 members present (Ray and Glenda P., and Joe. L.) Joe L. was our treasurer, Glenda P. secretary, and Ray P., chairman. The group decided on its name as H.O.W. - for honesty, open-mindedness and willingness. We had a current balance of \$16.75 after our first four meetings.

At the next business meeting on February 10, a letter to the World Service Office to register the group was read and approved. The group also voted to have a candlelight meeting on Saturday every other Saturday.

The group met again on February 24 where a checking account was discussed. Joe was to check into this. A second meeting was started on Wednesday night starting February 28th.

At the meeting on March 10 the minutes state that a representative from the World Service Office was present. The minute's do not say who this was, but I'm thinking it was Greg P. He covered ordering literature, explained what the World Service Office could provide. A Spring Picnic was discussed, and Robin M. was appointed as chairman. It was announced that a meeting was being held in Topeka at 3:00 p.m. in the Potwin Presbyterian Church, and rides were discussed. It was decided to wait on the checking account, as cost was prohibitive.

A business meeting was held on March 24. Robin announced plans for the spring event at the Mike Davis Rock Quarry with more details to come. At the recent meeting in Topeka, a NA Area Conference was planned. This will be held on July 6-7 at Camp Hawk. The group also voted to have Wednesday night meeting closed, and Saturday night meeting open.

At the business meeting on April 7 it was announced that the spring event would be held Easter Weekend at the Rock Quarry.

On April 21 the group was advised that Ray had checked into meeting at Bethel Hospital, and the group voted to move. There had

been problems with the treatment center, plus the issue of affiliation was another reason for the move. A calendar was to be purchased for members to sign up to lead meetings. Our only expense at Bethel at first was to pay after meeting for coffee consumed at .15 cents a cup. Here's an interesting quote from the May 19, 1979, business meeting notes "The group then discussed having a step meeting. We discussed different ideas for the format - possibility of using records from Prairie View (note a local treatment center), using AA literature. After discussion it was decided that we would use AA literature or any NA literature pertaining to the step."

In June the tradition of having the group's birthday night on the first Saturday of the month was voted on. A camp out was held on June 23 (no details in minutes).

The 'first' Regional Campout was held July 6, 7 & 8 at Camp Hawk with Newton responsible for signs. At this time our area was Newton, Wichita, Dodge City.

Another Campout was held August 11 and 12th at Harvey County West Park.

In October the group finally opened a check account having a total ending balance of \$52.41. Another campout was scheduled for October 20 and 21st at West Lake.

In December a Christmas party was planned. The group went caroling and then went to the 4-H Building. The group purchased a 12 and 12, Day by Day and a Big Book.

1980

A lot of time was spent planning the Regional Campout to be held over the 4th of July. Fund raising included a car wash in a local church parking lot. Plus the World Convention was to be held in Wichita and a lot of members were involved in the planning of this event. The first half of 1980 the group focused on planning for the Regional Campout at West Park. At the campout there was the first Pig Out, NA Olympics (Obstacle course), scavenger hunt. The group held different fund raising events to raise money for the camp out including a car wash. A letter and flyer was sent to every NA address we could along with a cover letter signed by 17 NA members. We included in this letter the World Convention Flyer. The campout came and went along with it a burn ban because of hot dry temperatures. It was 100 degrees plus but all the events went off. Just for interest the budget for the camp out follows:

Income:

Anonymous donation \$100
Money raised at camp out \$116.83
Total income \$216.83

Expenses:

Pig \$100.00
Building rental \$30.00
Awards \$6.00
Other supplies 81.20
Total expenses \$217.20

In November the group was advised that a rental house had been found that would be suitable for our use with rent being \$70. The house would take some work but landlord would provide supplies. There would be no hot water in the house. The group approved renting the house for 3 months with a tentative opening date of March 1st. A committee was formed to coordinate work, and rental arrangements. The group asked for pledges to cover the rent. In December the planning began for the rental house. Coordinating of house repairs, making deposits on utilities, house rules, and the fundraisers

that would happen every month for the next year to keep the house open. The first meeting was held on February 1, with the "Grand Opening Party" on February 14. A combination lock was put on the front door with the combination available to all members. The neighbors and the Chief of Police were notified of the opening of the meeting house. Meetings were: Monday, Women's NA; Wednesday, Step meeting; Thursday, Men's NA; Friday 7 p.m.; Nar-A-Non, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m., candlelight meeting; Sunday 2 p.m. The meeting house was named "The Club 12" and was at 321 W 6th in Newton. In March the Men's NA meeting was shut down. At the end of our 3-month trial, it was extended for another 6 months. In April we went back to just Wednesday and Saturday meeting at 8 p.m. One of the things about the clubhouse that was interesting was we painted the bathroom a really bright blue and left magic markers for people to write sayings on the walls. I remember people spending lots of time in the bathroom and it wasn't to use drugs. One wall was a mural painted by a young addict. Years later I wished for pictures I didn't have.

An H&I Committee was formed in spring of 1981, and struggled to establish a 'real' H&I meeting at a local institution. This institution had formed their own NA meeting in the late 70's, basically wanting no involvement from the outside. (Jimmy K. called one of the group members upon hearing this, saying, "They can't do that. They have to have involvement of a H&I committee." But that's the way it was.) In the summer of 81, this institution asked us to lead their Tuesday night meetings, provide a list monthly of those to lead meetings, with us handling any funds collected, and paying them \$5 rental fee. The group agreed to do this. The institution was to have one staff member present. In August an H&I meeting was organized with another institution with them bringing the clients to the clubhouse on Friday night.

Here's food for thought - sent to the Regional newsletter: "Help. The officers that form our steering committee could use some advice. Our business meetings are too long, chaotic and the cause of many resentments." In September the secretary and GSR started putting together an agenda prior to the business meetings.

In October we held a potluck dinner at a member's parent's farm, and had a hayrack ride. A Christmas marathon meeting was planned. A chili feed and a dance was held on December 12 at the 4-H Bldg. The flyer reflected 'Save Our Clubhouse.'

1982

A Valentine's Dance was held at the 4-H Building on February 13. The Clubhouse was open all that Saturday for an UNO tournament. On Sunday February 14 the group met and was advised that Walter had a buyer for the house. After our big fundraiser the night before we had a balance of \$90.22 and an outstanding gas bill of \$70. So we planned a good by party for the house on February 26. And we moved back to Bethel Hospital. I remember being sad that it didn't work, and relieved at the same time. The stress of covering two-H&I meetings and a fundraiser every month showed. The minutes from that time reflect it. The furniture was given back to whoever donated it and although the minutes reflect a possible auction, I don't see where any income was received from one. Subcommittee chairs changing every month etc. It was reported that the Prairie View H&I meeting was shut down. They wanted us to have 5 or 6 outside NA members every week. I believe that the Farm House Friday night meeting went the wayside with the closing of the clubhouse.

An event was held on June 12 at Athletic Park with dance to raise funds for the Regional Campout, including volleyball. The group was involved in the Regional Campout to be held at Milford, theme

Milford Madness.

The July business meeting notes reflect an overdraft charge, the group being advised the rent hadn't been paid for 3 months (\$60 total) to Bethel, and a balance of \$35.95. The treasurer was removed from office and replaced, the checking account to be closed, and a new one opened.

A campout and free hamburger feed was held at West Park on August 21, and 22nd.

1983

A Spiritual retreat was held on May 21 and 22 at Harvey County West Park. We had a potluck dinner, volleyball, and baseball.

An H&I meeting started at Methodist Youthville here in Newton at some point in 1983. The minutes aren't clear as to when but the guidelines are dated October 12, 1983. The meeting was on Wednesday evening. In October a Friday 12:30 p.m. meeting was added.

The December minutes reflect the purchase of a turkey, and renting of 4-H Building in November.

A New Year's even dance was held at the 4-H Bldg. This was our five-year anniversary.

1984

Regional Campout held at West Park over 4th of July weekend. The July 14th minutes reflect the sending of \$500 on to the Region to be pledged to the next campout. What the minutes don't reflect is that the treasurer's husband was in a car wreck in the next month. A member talked the treasurer into giving them a blank check for flowers, wrote it for \$500, and vanished for a week. The aftermath is reflected in the minutes by two signatures on the checking account. The money was collected as sent to the Region. A New Years Eve Dance was held again that year.

1985

Campout September 28, & 29, West Park

Turkey dinner, November 16, 4-H Bldg.

HOW GROUP

NEWTON

The HOW Group was meeting in the cafeteria of the Bethel Hospital when I was first introduced to it. There was a partition curtain that we drew to seclude us from the rest of the rooms, and not disturb anyone. The tables and chairs were already there; the coffee and tea already made and we had a corner to put our wooden box of supplies in. We were meeting Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. Saturday night meeting was always considered an open meeting.

The AA group also shared our space with us; at least they kept their literature in our box. The local treatment centers were sending clients to our meetings on a regular basis. Saturday night was generally a candlelight meeting by means of a couple of oil lamps. I remember the literature being a white book a couple of pamphlets, the 2nd edition of the Basic Text and using the Day By Day (Hazleton) for our meditation book. My first meeting was in September of 1983. It was a birthday meeting.

The body of addicts grew enough to warrant more meetings. We began by adding Thursdays to the list, also, at 8:00 p.m. There was a member there that kept talking about H&I, which turned out to be meetings being taken to the hospital in Wichita (St. Joseph's, I believe). We even had an H&I can at that time that we passed around with the group basket to collect money for H&I literature. Later, the trusted servants found that to be a violation of traditions or some such thing.

We were even allowed to smoke in the hospital at the beginning of my meeting attendance, so we had ashtrays to distribute. That was quite a deal when we were no longer allowed to smoke in the meetings.

More people attending meetings, different hours needed for meetings came up, so we started having some noon meetings several days a week. Then, addicts change hours and the noon time meetings were not being attended, so they were closed down. Still had the 3 evening meetings. Some of those daytime meetings survived for a couple of years. Tried to have a women's meeting, which started off with a bang and ended in a cloud of dust. It just didn't work out. We tried to be a part of the HOW group and also, being a separate meeting which isn't a part of this history. Or is it?

Sometime later, probably 10 years or more, we were asked as a group to no longer meet at the hospital. We weren't sure what we were going to do. Then we get a call from a young lady who had gone to the church board at First Mennonite Church and asked permission to have meetings held there at the church (which was just about 2 blocks from the hospital). So, we started meeting in the youth room (room #124) at the church. The rent was very reasonable and the surroundings pleasant.

There came a time when a book study night seemed to be a plausible cause, so we started a Monday night book study. That meeting has come and gone and is back on again today. The book study isn't the most attended out of all the meetings. We even had a rotating book study that formed when the *It Works How and Why* book was available. It was on Saturday morning and they met at an addict's house, different each week.

More addicts, we need more meetings. We added a Wednesday noon meeting, which one addict took under his wing and faithfully opened up every Wednesday. It seems that we have to have someone who is dedicated to a particular time and day to keep a meeting going faithfully. We have tried over the years to have a daytime meeting off and on which only flourishes if we have addicts who are unemployed, work 2nd or 3rd shift or use their lunch hour to attend that meeting. I don't recall dates, which if I dug through the archives I could probably find (if you want me to do that). It will take more time to do.

There never seemed to be too many women attending meetings. I prayed for God to send us more women and he did. Now we resurrected the Women's meeting again (this time on Sunday evenings and made it an hour and a half long) and made it a part of the HOW group. It fluctuated with attendance and is now a meeting for all of us (no gender specific). It seems to be working out better. Of course, meeting attendance always fluctuates due to weather, season, attitude, activity, and availability of time.

This HOW Group has had a birthday night every month, which when I first attended was the last Saturday of the month. It was moved because of different reasoning, but the best is that we do not front clean time. So, now the birthday night is the first Saturday of the month and your birthday has to have occurred before that date to celebrate. It used to be a trusted servant's job to bring the birthday cake. The secretary did it for awhile, then the treasurer did it; now whoever wants to bring a cake does it.

In the beginning of my time with this group, they elected officers for the group and held a business meeting away from the meeting which was just for the addicts who were an officer, plus the business meeting for all who wanted to attend. We now have business meetings, which include the trusted servants, and anyone else who

wishes to participate in taking care of the group's business. We also have group consciences to elect new officers, vote on issues, and discuss group problems or whatever else is happening that the group needs to take care of.

The two people who started this group here in Newton, KS, USA, are still attending meetings, celebrating their clean time and participating in recovery with us, Ray and Glenda P.

There are two events that our group has held over the years that are on-going events. One is the Pre-Campout Campout, which used to be the fundraiser for the 4th of July Campout, which has been going on for 20 years now. It started out at Harvey County West Park and only one year was held at East Lake because we were unable to reserve the stone buildings for our campout dates. It started out to be just a few of us camping out and has grown to hundreds of addicts coming from all over the state to attend and sometimes from out of state, also. The other event is the Annual Turkey Feed which started out at Ray and Glenda's house and has grown to need a building to hold the event in. It began as a way of celebrating Thanksgiving with our NA family and grew to be a much bigger family affair. Several years back an enthusiastic addict came up with the idea of roasting a fellow addict for their dedication and service to the HOW group as a trusted servant. So we began by roasting our oldest member, Glenda, and through the years have roasted many, many addicts who have fulfilled their duties as our trusted servants. Sometimes we don't roast whom they think we ought to, but it always works out to who it's supposed to be. It may seem like an odd thing to do, but we have had a lot of fun doing this. We pass around a bronze pig as the prize, as we were unable to find a turkey and the pig seemed to be a fitting object for a prize to keep care of for a year.

Over the years we have had other functions such as New Year's Eve Dances, Fifties Dance, picnics, kite flying events, flyer drives for PI, H & I meetings where we took in food to share a meal with the clients of a facility.

We have been a part of the Central Kansas Area, staying with them when Wichita broke away to form the Wichita Metro Area. Then moving to the Wichita Metro Area, then being alone for awhile. Then joining the Unity Area, and now helping form the Primary Purpose Area with Hutchinson, McPherson, Lyons, Kingman groups, I believe.

Our Central Kansas Area was a part of the Mid-America Regional Service Committee in the beginning of my time when Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska were a part of that Region. Nebraska might've left already. Then Oklahoma and Missouri left us to be on our own. We've done a fine job standing on our own.

Back to the meeting days, we have a Sunday night meeting at 7:00 p.m., Monday night meeting at 7:00 p.m. (book study), Tuesday night meeting at 8:00 p.m., Thursday night 7:00 p.m., Friday meeting at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday night (open) meeting at 8:00 p.m. All of our meetings are listed as closed to addicts only except Saturday, which is considered an open meeting. Thursday night had two meetings listed for awhile 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to accommodate the addicts who get up really early to go to work. They weren't either being attended. The early one would overlap the late one, which didn't work out, so we compromised with a 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Over the years there have been attitudes which took their white book and coffeepot and began a new group in Newton. Right now the one group that has survived all the attitudes and what have you

is the HOW group of Newton. We humbly submit this part of our NA history to the committee. I'm sure I've forgotten something and would've been nice to have the dates, but this is what is remembered.

Selflessly submitted,
Sue W.
Treasurer
HOW Group of Newton
11/03/02

Narcotics Anonymous – McPherson

1982 Survivors Group meet in the 3rd floor annex, Memorial Hospital on Fridays at 8:00pm. Marlena K. is the GSR and Dennis O. is the contact person.

Oct 1983 Dennis O. and Von P. started a group in the back room of SOS, one meeting a week.

July 1984 Joined Central Kansas Area (which included Derby, Ark City, McPherson, Hutchinson, Hays, Ellinwood and Great Bend). Dave S. came up with group name "New Life Loadies". Von P. is the first GSR.

Aug 1984 Added 2nd meeting to list, Friday and Sunday nights.

Sometime 1987 Dropped out of Central Kansas Area.

April 1988 Dave S. becomes treasurer (replacing Brenda D.).

Dec 1989 1st "Blue Ball" Ball.

Aug 1990 New Life Loadies 1st campout.

Aug 1990 Jubilee NA started with 2 meetings, Friday and Saturday at 11:00pm.

March 1991 "Never Been Any Reason" Dance

April 1991 Joined Unity Area (Tim S. – 1st GSR in 4 years)

Aug 1991 New Life Loadies 2nd Annual Campout.

Aug 1991 Jubilee folded due to lack of support (non-smoking building)

Dec 1991 "New Life - New Hope" Dance

Aug 1992 New Life Loadies 3rd Annual Campout

Sept 1992 World Unity Day Picnic

Dec 1992 2nd Annual "Blue Ball" Ball

Aug 1993 New Life Loadies 4th Annual Campout

Dec 1993 "New Life – New Beginning" 10th Anniversary Dance

Early 1994 New Life Loadies moved to Park School to increase meetings. Members that changed their minds afterwards formed the Flying Free group, which took the location and meeting time of the Loadies at SOS. The Park School location lasted less than one year and the Loadies folded.

1994 To present Flying Free Group continues to meet and eventually grows into four meetings a week with plans to add a fifth One meeting floats between locations and the possible new meeting will be at a different location all together.

May 2000 Unity Area is recognized as "too big" so McPherson, Newton and Hutchinson hold special planning meetings to create the Primary Purpose Area.

Aug 2000 Primary Purpose Area was officially seated at the RSC. It comprised of McPherson, Newton Hutchinson and Lyons.

December 14th, 2002 Resurrection of the "Blue Ball" Ball!! The first group function in 9 years.

Clean & Crazy – Salina

Started: March 24, 1988

Original members: John C.
Jerry Mc.
Bill B.
Don B.
Don A.
Dave C.
Don L.
Alan C.
Alan R.
Shelly R.
Dirk ?
John J.

Where and when it met: At the then KTI (Kansas Technical Institute – before it became KSU) Student Union Bookstore, on Thursdays at 8:00pm.

Reason it started: At the time there were only two NA meetings a week, Phoenix Group on Wednesdays and Unity Group on Tuesdays, both at 8:00pm. John, Jerry and Bill were students at KTI and they all had classes on those two nights. John worked at the Student Union and they said that they could use the building for a meeting, so they started a Thursday night meeting. Don B. was working 2nd shift at Tony's and would go to the meeting on his lunch break.

Dances: Clean & Crazy traditionally had a St. Patrick's Day Dance. For three years they had a live band for these dances. "Dynomite Don" was a big help in fund raising with the dances he DJ'd. The dances were usually at the KTI cafeteria.

T-shirts: The original "Clean & Crazy" T-shirts were designed by Don R. and made at the place he was working in Bellville.

Gift of Life Group History

1st Saturday of January 1990 John G. Angie P. Billy C. and Belinda C. started the NA group. They made a commitment to meet each Saturday night for six months. They met in the back room at the Saint E's AA group's meeting hall on 20th and Jackson in Hutchinson, KS. They paid a "token" rent of \$10.00 a month at first.

In February of 1990, there were about 4 to 6 people at each meeting. The first group conscience was held during this time and the group was named Gift of Life. Tuesday and Thursday night meetings were added to the Saturday night meeting. Business meeting was held the first Saturday of the month for 15-30 minutes before the regular scheduled meeting. Birthday night was held the last Saturday of the month. Members took turns bringing a cake.

In June of 1990, the group held their first campout at Cheney Lake. About 10-12 people showed up. The group provided marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate for s'mores. In August that year the group held another campout. This time the campout was at Kanopolis Lake. The group also decided that it could contribute more for rent and it was raised to \$30.00 a month.

In the spring of 1991, the group had 12-14 people attending meetings on a regular basis. Officers were elected and the group attended their first Unity Area meeting, which was held in Abilene. Billy C. was the GSR at the time.

In the summer, another campout was held. This time T-shirts were designed to commemorate the event.

Gift of Life had a growing membership and it was outgrowing the back room of the AA meeting hall. At a business meeting members of the group sought out solutions. The possibility of moving the group

was exciting and scary. The first attempt to move was short-lived. The group started meeting at a church. Membership did slow down a bit, but there were still committed core members who held on.

In February of 1993, the group held its first Valentine's Dance. Convention Hall in Hutchinson was rented and it was a great success. Since then, the Valentine's Dance has become an annual event.

In 1994 a new home was found. The group started meeting at 4th and Whiteside in Hutchinson. The building was big and the membership grew. It was during this time that a need for noon meetings was addressed. The group began having noon meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Meetings were increased to every night of the week. A women's meeting was established and held on Sunday. The time for this meeting changed many times. Eventually, interest was lost and the meeting died. A men's meeting was also started and held on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. It also changed times and eventually became an open noon meeting.

1995-1997 we were holding 21 meetings a week, midnight meetings on Friday and

Saturday; 5:30 meetings, Tuesday and Thursday. Whatever the groups needs are we always use the group conscience to address them.

With the new large space the meeting hall provided, the group was able to have dances and other functions in the building. During the holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas), the hall was open all day for food, fun, and fellowship. Our birthday nights grew to include a potluck meal before the meeting.

There were times in the years of meeting at 4th and Whiteside that the group struggled with funds. It was in this building that the group conducted its first Group Inventory. In time it was decided to look for another place hold meetings

A vacant church at 300 East 2nd became available and the rent was lower, which was what the group needed. Due to conflicts of interests with the Recovery Club that was renting the space to the group, the group once again was in search of a home.

A large building space at 400 East 2nd became available in the group's time of need. The rent was also very affordable. The group met on the third floor of this building. The landlord lived on the first floor of the building and that became a conflict of interest for him. The group was once again in search of somewhere to hold meetings. This time the group had plenty of time to find something else because the landlord understood the situation.

At the present time, the group meets at 310 Stevens. The group has meetings every night at 8:00 p.m. and Monday thru Saturday at noon. On Sunday there is a 10:00 a.m. closed meeting. Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. are closed meetings. Most meetings are well attended. We have four non-smoking meetings at 8p.m. Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Today when we have our service meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m., we have a 2-hour cap on it. **This is must.** A lot has changed in the last 12 yrs. but the message is still the same.

The first 10 years we were a part of the Unity Area and in August 2000 we join the Primary Purpose Area to better serve our communities along with Newton, Lyons and McPherson and Kingman.

Also we have two campouts and four dances every year to let every one know, yes you can have fun in recovery!

Whenever in Hutchinson come check us out we are all family and you will feel like you are at home!

Phoenix Group of NA – Salina

The idea of a Narcotics Anonymous meeting was first conceived in the early months of 1972. At nine months clean, Jim N. with the help of his probation officer started a meeting at the new treatment center that had been established in the St John's Hospital in Salina. They met on Thursdays at first, but after a few months they moved from the center. Meetings continued for some time, but the attendance fell off and they soon folded, Jim N. moved to Iowa.

Meetings were started several times over the next few years but never survived. In the early 1980's there were groups starting for this reason or that, and it seemed to be tearing the fellowship apart. Mike A., Mike L., Bill H. and Don M. started talking about how things had changed and what needed to be done to unify NA in Salina. That discussion led to meetings with other members, groups and their trusted servants about combining meetings under one group. Change being difficult for most addicts to grasp, there were heated and spiritual discussions about bringing the groups together and what the name of this new group would be.

The members and trusted servants of the Phoenix Group suggested that the new name be neutral so not to step on anyone's toes. However, the history of the Phoenix Group kept being brought up and how it was one of the oldest groups in Kansas. Cooler heads prevailed and a decision was made to unify a number of the meetings in Salina under the name of the Phoenix Group. It was said by Don M. "I really do believe that during the process of unifying the groups in Salina that I witnessed true group conscience and the power of our Higher Power working through others", and the Phoenix Group lives to carry the message to this day.

Article submitted by Big Mike, special thanks to Jim N, Jim M, Don M, Dan D, and many others who helped in my research of the group.

Riverside Candle-lite N.A. - Wichita

The group was opened in January 1986. We would meet on Tuesday nights only. We had a meeting time of 8:30pm. At the start of the group (the 1st year), the time changed to an earlier time to permit it's members to attend the group and be able to support a local H&I meeting that was on that night also. As time went by, the H&I meeting moved to a different day so the meeting returned to it's 8:30pm time. Everyone was glad about it because in the summertime, with longer daylight hours, it would be more of a candlelight meeting later in the day.

Our meeting attendance was usually small (10-15 addicts), but at times it was very large (20-50 addicts). Many newcomers came thru our doors, with many coming back. Most all the meetings started with the leader having the first candle lit and then lighting the next member's candle to pass the light along with the next person to share. We all seemed to become more united and many felt "a part of".

We put on many activities & dances, the most noteworthy being an "Annual Watermelon Feed & Dance". We got to a 4th annual on this. Many other activities too numerous to list. Many of them getting together with other groups in the city to promote more unity and fellowship between all.

But alas, all good things usually come to an end. With declining interest and membership, and having to compete with the multiple meeting locations, the doors of Riverside Candle-lite N.A. finally closed in the summer of 2001. Now hopefully it's a collection of good memories for all that were a part of.

Day by Day NA – Wichita

When our home group first started meeting on the 21st of October 1995, we were called Waterman Street NA. Obviously our name was based on our location at Recovery Hall on Waterman Street. Our group met on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for about a month. Our first real group conscience was held in November 1995. As with most new groups, it was a roller coaster at first. An addict was attending the World Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 1996 and registered the group. Due to growth in meeting attendance it was decided to have a meeting every night at 9:30p.m.

The meetings were well attended for the next couple of years and recovery was alive and well at Waterman Street NA. Every Friday was speaker night, birthday night was Friday at the end of the month. We confronted many issues during this timeperiod such as relations with newcomers or “13-stepping” as it is called. Through our struggles and the continued involvement of our core members Waterman Street NA continued to carry the message. Meeting attendance would run from five to the highest count of “64”/

At the Waterman Street location we paid rent to a corporation called “Recovery Hall, Inc.” who also rented the hall to AA and CA, this presented some problems in the end. Our message was blurred. Because of the issue of “cross-contamination” and because the rent was raised just for our group, a decision was made to move in April 2000. Until we found a hall to rent, we held meetings at a temporary address. This lasted for only one month. We were asked by the landlord to find elsewhere on a moment’s notice. This motivated the group into a frantic search and we found our new home within the week at 3900 E. Harry and moved in May of 2000.

Our meetings there started out very small. It seemed that many of the addicts that had attended the meetings at Waterman Street decided to stay at Recovery Hall for whatever reasons. The core members continued to hold meetings and changed the time from 9:30 to 8:30pm. After much prayer and discussion, and more prayer, we decided to change our name. We had a contest and the name “Waterman Street NA” was changed to “Day by Day NA”. This was voted in at group conscience in May of 2001. It was a struggle for quite a while, month-to-month, receiving help from other groups and Wichita Metro Area. The group has grown in attendance with newcomers coming in and getting involved. We have had activities, which have brought us all closer to each other. We have added a 6:00pm meeting on Tuesday and a midnight meeting on Saturday.

This brings Day by Day NA up to date as of October 2002. We just had elections last month and all trusted servant positions were filled including our public information and hospitals and institutions representatives. This is the first time in a long while that we have had this level of commitment and involvement in all aspects of our NA home group.

Just For Today – Augusta

August 1988, Dallas U. contacted Steve T. by way of telephone. Because of that phone call, then marked the beginning of the Narcotics Anonymous Group in Augusta, Kansas.

At that point in time, Dallas, an addict in recovery, served as a counselor in the Valley Hope Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center located in Augusta, Kansas. Lacking a NA meeting for the patients to attend outside of the treatment center put a limit on their recovery as a result of not hearing the experience, strength and hope from the recovering addicts living on the outside. However,

attending a NA meeting would play an important part in assisting the process of the patient’s recovery. Aware of this, Dallas called Steve asking if he would be willing to begin a NA meeting there. Although feeling hopeful, but anxious, because starting a NA group was foreign to him, Steve’s reply was yes.

After hearing Steve’s affirmation answer of yes and believing he could count on him to follow through, Dallas was in pursuit of a place in which the NA meeting could be held.

Fortunately, his pursuit was short lived when Dallas contacted Steve Frank, Pastor of the Wesleyan Church in Augusta. When Steve Frank heard the urgency in Dallas’ voice it was then he gave Dallas his approval for the NA meetings to be held at the church on Tuesday evenings, 8:00pm, at no expense. Two years later, Steve Frank became a chaplain in the Valley Hope Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center.

Since obtaining a place to meet, the first NA meeting was near the end of August at the approved time. In attendance were the inpatients from the Valley Hope Treatment Center, Steve T. and one other recovering addict residing in Augusta at the time. In spite of lacking the basic format and structure, the meeting was successful in that the addicts had a place to go and share their experience, strength and hope with each other.

In following progression of the movement, Steve T. attended his first Wichita Metro Area Service Committee meeting in September 1988, to gain information and guidelines to become an established Narcotics Anonymous group acknowledged by the Area, Regional and World levels. While looking through the Narcotic’s Anonymous Basic Text of Recovery, the Area Chairperson asked Steve what this NA group would be called. It just so happened that Steve was on the page of “Just for Today” and his quick reply was “Just For Today”, in short, this is how the Just For Today Group acquired it’s name. When the meeting concluded, Steve purchased various NA reading materials, key tags and coins for his new found group and as a result of love, support and guidance he received from Area, encouraged following through his task.

Over time, the group continued to flourish in a variety of ways. One of which after completion of treatment at the Valley Hope Treatment Center, patients that lived within driving distance continued attending the Tuesday evening meetings. Another was after three to four months of the group’s existence, the warden at the El Dorado Maximum Security Prison, located in El Dorado, Kansas, contacted the Valley Hope Treatment Center. The warden’s request was that someone bring a NA meeting to the prison on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm and Dallas referred him to Steve. The warden contacted Steve with his request and Steve complied. As the prisoners were paroled, part of their requirement was to attend so many meetings per week. Since Steve made them aware of the Just For Today NA Tuesday evening, they began attending. Witnessing the success of the Thursday NA meetings held in maximum security, the warden of minimum-security prisoners contacted Steve requesting that he bring a NA meeting to the minimum-security prisoners on Wednesday evenings at the same time. Again, Steve complied and as the prisoners were released they too began attending the Just For Today NA Tuesday evening meeting. Thus, the flourishing of the group’s meeting attendance was in numbers.

Approaching the end of 1991, three years after beginning the Just For Today Group and serving as the group’s GSR, Alternate GSR, Treasurer and Secretary, plus running the meetings at the prison on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Steve experienced burn out. Currently counting the patients at the Valley Hope Treatment Cen-

ter, the group's average meeting attendance was twenty-five people. Steve called a group conscience meeting and the group elected a GSR, Alternate GSR, Treasurer and Secretary. Steve continued to attend the Tuesday meetings, however, as a fellow addict.

February 1993, Gary P. recently released from a correctional facility joined his brother Daryl P. in attendance of the Just For Today NA Tuesday meeting at the Wesleyan Church. In committing to his recovery and involvement in the group, Gary later held the position as the group's treasurer.

In the spring of 1994, the church's congregation was repulsed by the odor of the cigarette smoke therefore leaving the NA group two choices. First choice was to have a non-smoking meeting; the second choice was to relocate the group's meeting place. The group voted for choice number two and relocated the NA meeting to the Augusta AA meeting hall at 5071/2 State Street, Augusta, Kansas.

Nearly a year after moving, the group conscience elected Gary P. as GSR and Treasurer of the group, as well as the election of other trusted servants. To promote growth, the group conscience then voted to begin and add to the schedule a Saturday evening meeting at 8:00pm, occasionally making this a candle light meeting.

Shortly thereafter, because of the rapid growth of attendance, the group conscience voted to begin Thursday evening twelve-step meetings at 6:30pm, so the Valley Hope patients could attend. After that the group voted to begin a speaker meeting on the first Saturday of each month. And on the third Saturday of each month, a birthday night meeting for the recovering addicts to individually celebrate their clean time from thirty days to multiple years. In addition, they voted to make the fourth Saturday of each month a candlelight meeting.

Continuous change always predictable, the group put up with a considerable drop in meeting attendance when the Valley Hope Treatment Center transferred from Augusta, Kansas, to Halstead, Kansas in the fall of 2000. Nevertheless, the group's established members continued to endure in like manner and with the arrival of the newcomer, the group survived the outcome.

As a result of continuous change, the Just for Today Narcotics Anonymous Group has observed the loss of its members through several circumstances. Trusted servants have left after and during their elected terms because of the following; they transferred somewhere else, became excessively busy to attend meetings on a regular basis, or have gone back in the direction of active addiction. Similarly, the group's long-standing member, as well as the member that remained for merely awhile, left basically on the same condition. They had to transfer somewhere else, became excessively busy to attend meetings on a regular basis or gone back to insanity, captive in active addiction, on the brink of imprisonment plus death. In addition, the group has been through disaster, mourning the member that returned to active addiction to the end of their bodily life.

For all the adversities and changes, the Just For Today Narcotics Anonymous Group has been through, a brighter side could always be discerned. At present, the group has been in existence for fourteen years. Throughout the entire time, there are five known recovering addicts that were involved from the onset or came after, that were and remain instrumental members to the group's existence. They are Roxsanna S., Steve T., Gary P., Daryl P. and Aaron W. Of those five members, three attend the Just For Today NA meeting, one recently moved away, yet almost certainly will show up again and the other is still around but hasn't attended for awhile. These five persons jointly have sixty-three years clean. Numerous recovering addicts that were involved in the beginning have moved out of the area

and the status of their recovery is unknown.

Currently, the average group attendance per meeting is six to eight people. The group conscience voted to implement the following change in the meeting schedule aforementioned in the third paragraph; page three: Thursday evening meeting time changed from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, from a Step Study meeting to Book Study. The group's trusted servants are Tom M. – Treasurer, Kathleen M. – Secretary, Roxsanna S. – Alt. GSR, and Tonie D. – GSR. Once more, loss and sincere sorrow in the spring of 2002 caused the members of the group to work together in overcoming temporary set back. Although, having to regroup was a process, as a result of the determination of each member and support from Area, today, the group can proclaim progress.

In conclusion, because of the growth-enhancing experience of continued change and many adversities, the group has become stronger and more determined to survive. The adversities have caused willingness in the devoted members to get involved and pull together as a team for the group's well being. Joined with the most important person in attendance, the welcomed face of the newcomer that keeps coming back, the group will continue to surmount obstacles as it has in the past. The Just For Today Narcotics Anonymous Group doesn't merely exist and survive, but today is Alive and Thriving!

To date, the statuses of individuals mentioned in this history are as follows: Dallas Ulrich received a promotion in 1990 as the Director of the Valley Hope Treatment Center and now has twenty-some years clean. Steve Timmerman celebrated seventeen years clean in September 2002 at the Just For Today NA birthday night. The whereabouts of Steve Frank is unknown. Today, Gary P. is twelve years clean and plans one day at a time to celebrate his thirteenth birthday at the Just For Today NA birthday meeting in December 2002. Daryl P. is clean with fourteen years and is running his own business. Roxsanna S. celebrated her tenth year clean in August 2002 at the Just For Today NA birthday night and once more having the service position as Alternate GSR for the group. In the spring of 2002, Aaron W. made the decision to transfer to Pennsylvania to be with his son and couldn't be present to celebrate his tenth year of clean time at the Just For Today NA birthday meeting. Tonie D. celebrated two years clean in August 2002. Tom M celebrated one year clean in September 2002 at the Just For Today NA birthday meeting and is currently the H&I co-chair of the Wichita Metro Area Service Committee. In gratitude and service, Tom participates in taking NA meetings into the El Dorado Correctional Facility and Options Adult Services, an inpatient rehabilitation center. Kathleen M. celebrated one year clean in September 2002 at the Just For Today NA birthday meeting and is currently involved in the H&I panel. Because of the help Kathleen received from the Women's Recovery Center, in loving service, Kathleen participates by taking NA meetings on the last Saturday of each month into the center to share her recovery with the women that still suffer.

The Just For Today Narcotic's Anonymous Group wants to express their thanks to the following people; Dallas Ulrich, for his insight and inspirable becoming of the group, Steve Timmerman, for his courage, commitment and perseverance in founding the group. To the trusted servants in the Wichita Metro Area Service Committee that have selflessly given their support and last but not least, to all who assisted in making the group's history possible by providing the necessary data regarding the past events of the group to present.

All information gathered and presented in this history is as accurate and true as each individual memory served to the best of their ability.

Submitted by Tonie D. October 28, 2002

The History of Unity Group of Narcotics Anonymous Wichita Kansas

A long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... (O.K. I can Take this part out don't have a cow man!)

Unity Group formed out of two struggling groups, 2,4,6 Group and Osage Group in May 1991 meeting at 732 S. Broadway Wichita. The first meeting times were at noon, 6p.m. and 8p.m., room capacity was approximately 25. In November 1993 Unity's meeting times were 7:00pm plus a midnight meeting on Saturday. Daily noon meetings were added sometime after. The Osage group had been having an annual street dance and Unity picked up that tradition in 1991 and continues today.

We grew out of the space at the S. Broadway location and moved to 1555 S. Water in fall 1993. Since that time we have held Game Night on Saturday evenings off and on. While on S. Water we had a poker meeting after the 7:00 from time to time. 9:00 meetings were also held at different points in our history. The group has also tried different meeting times like 5:30 p.m We acquired an old pop machine that we have used ever since as a safe place to keep literature and donations. Unity members have been instrumental in willingness to support of the Area H&I effort since this time.

Unity moved to 807 W. Maple on March 31, 1996 to be more accessible and centrally located. The 9:00pm meetings became stable at the Maple location. We started youth meetings that ran for about 18 months until gang influences became a problem. A women's meeting started in 1996 and continues to the present. Men's meeting was started in 1998 and folded in 1999 from lack of participation. The Wichita Metro Area Service Committee started meeting at Unity in July 14, 1996.

Unity moved to 1007 W. Douglas in May of 1999 a few blocks from the Maple location to present. When Unity formed we had average daily attendance of 30. Today we have daily attendance of 60-80 people. During the course of Unity's history the group has split a few times and new meetings have formed out of our membership.

Since the group's formation we have dealt with different struggles. We have always been tight on money but have remained solvent since the beginning. Finding Members with the willingness to be of service to the group without overloading individual members has been an issue at times. We have had to deal with outside and inside issues causing us problems i.e. smoking at meetings. We found solutions with a balance of smoking and non-smoking meetings. We have had to deal with inappropriate behavior during meetings including homeless persons drinking during the meeting.

Unity has taken multiple group inventories and has learned from the experience. As a result of Group Inventories we found that one way to improve our message was to have Traditions Meetings. Having just completed a Group Inventory we find that Unity is carrying the message of NA... and we still have room to improve. Due to a large influx of newcomers, inexperienced with the recovery through arrogance and defiance we have broken traditions and have learned from the experience. This pattern ebbs and flows with time.

Since our formation Unity has actively supported the Wichita Metro Area in member participation and contributions and has also helped support other Groups in our area.

Russell Nothing To Fear Group of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Russell Nothing to Fear group began February 22 of 1996, the brain child of Duane and Teri H. Teri H. Contacted WSO and got a starter kit to begin the meetings. The first meeting resided on the upper floor of a quaint coffee shop located in the Mecca Mall, Main

Street Russell, Kansas. This meeting place was donated by Eric E. and was attended by 7 original members and a whole slew of Teenagers who graced the meeting from time to time. These 7 original members attended regular meetings for at least one year. Teri H. stresses that the local AA members were a strong support for this struggling meeting and continue to be very supportive today. These first meetings were held on Thursdays at 8 P.M. and Sundays at 5 pm, both were open. The group joined AREA in June and continues to participate in AREA service to this day.

The first function the group held was in June of 1996 and was a great success in the eyes of most addicts, as far as first functions go. A day in the park was held with a Water balloon fight, softball game, BBQ and a meeting. Attendance was good.

The meeting moved to St. Elizabeth's church on Culp Street in January of 1997, the result of Eric E. not having the Coffee Shop any longer. The AA group that held meetings at this location on Tuesdays folded and Duane H. felt the need for a Workbook study meeting. Duane attended a Step meeting in Grand Island Nebraska and this sprung the idea. Thus Tuesdays were filled with workbook study for the next two years. Attendance dropped and the meeting was changed to a regular meeting. The group still meets regularly on Tuesdays at 8 P.M. Thursdays at 8 P.M. and Sundays at 5 P.M. with attendance anywhere from 2 to 10 members.

The second function was held in February of 1997, the first of Russell's Nothing to Fear annual Blow Out. Attendance to this function was great! The local cops were even there! With a dance, dinner and speaker meeting, it set the pace for future Blow Outs. Proceeds from these functions go to the Church for upkeep.

We keep coming back!

Lamed Just for Today N.A. Group History

Dale M. arrived in Lamed KS May 15 1987. He inquired at Sunrise Halfway house about N.A. meetings. He was informed that there were not any meetings currently going on but some guy had some N.A. information and material. Dale M. located this guy and he informed Dale M. "that there were a lot of addicts in this town but nobody is interested in meetings or getting clean and sober". He gave Dale the N.A. stuff he had and said "maybe you can do better than I did".

In the first week of June 1987 Dale M., Kay Z., and Bill P. had the first JUST FOR TODAY N.A. MEETING in Lamed KS in the basement of Sunrise halfway house. The group chose Thursday night as their meeting night so they would not interfere with other N.A. meetings and A.A. meetings in the area. The Just for Today group had their 3rd meeting at the Episcopal Church after Dale obtained permission to meet at the church and continued their weekly meetings at that location. Attendance varied from Dale M., coffee pot and Basic text to 6-8 addicts seeking recovery. The group moved the meeting to St. Joseph's Hospital due to declining attendance and to reach out to other addicts who were in the treatment center at the hospital. The meetings began to grow due to the treatment center clients attending and interest in the community increasing.

Dale M., Bob M., Ingo O., Mike, and Ed hatched a plan to start the 5th street Recovery Club in Lamed. Their intentions were to get a building that was available in town that had a dance floor, kitchen, and meeting place. They spent many hours cleaning and fixing the place up. The plan was to allow all of the 12 Step fellowships to meet there and charge them rent to finance the Club and activities. The Just For Today group began meeting at this new location on Sundays, Tuesday, and Thursdays. They lost momentum after six to

eight months. At that time relapse, relationship problems, and members relocating began to take its toll. After one year the core group consisted of only Dale M. and Ingo O. The group came full circle and returned to the Episcopal Church.

During the early years, Dale M. served as GSR and for one year Bob M. served as GSR. Dale often traveled to Central Kansas Area Meetings with the Kinsley GSR, Candy. In early 1994, meeting attendance plummeted and Dale M. finally threw in the towel. Dale M. passed the N.A. literature and information to Sunrise Halfway House. From early 1994 until sometime in 1996 N.A. was absent in Lamed.

Dale M. and Darren R., hooked up in 1996 and decided to start a lunch time meeting on Friday at noon because it was convenient for them. The Lamed State Hospital allowed them to meet in the Chapel Peach Room. Meeting attendance was often only Dale M. and Darren R., but Dennis S., Sharon T., and Sandy E., would stop by from time to time.

The Friday noon Just For Today group meeting struggled along for about a year. Then Mike G. and Michele G. moved to town and started attending regularly. Four old timers meeting every Friday sharing the N.A. way on their lunch break. The group returned to Central Kansas Area meetings and activities and have regularly sent a GSR or representative to CKA since 1989.

In 1998 we also had an influx of newcomers Tom C., Jeff R., Jeff H., Andi G., and Jason P., began to attend regularly. The group expanded their meeting times to include Sunday evening and Friday noon. Also other recovering addicts from all over the CKA began to drive to Lamed to fellowship with the Just For Today N.A. group.

The group made the decision to move to town from the State Hospital Chapel to accommodate the growing fellowship in Lamed. Meetings began in early 1999 at the Christian Church Annex building on Sundays at 8:00 P.M.. and Thursdays at 7:00 P.M... to allow Mike G. to catch the end of the NBA games on Thursdays.

Sometime in 2000, Tom C. and Jeff R. suggested that the Lamed group start taking a monthly meeting into Sunrise Halfway House. Addicts residing at Sunrise began to attend the Just for Today meeting with more consistency as that meeting began reaching out to them.

The group has thrived. A woman's group was added on Monday nights. That meeting was opened up to all addicts seeking recovery on November 4th, 2002. The group started an annual rib barbecue in the park. Michele G., Lamed, Greg B., Hoisington, and Duane H., Russell, have each spoke in successive years at the barbecue. The group hasn't been without tragedy or problems. We lost a brother in recovery, Tom C., in August 2001. The N.A. community supported each other through the grieving process. The N.A. meeting funds disappeared on one occasion, but the group rallied and used the N.A. principles to resolve the problem.

Central Kansas Area attendance has always been important to the group. The list of GSRs that have served the Just For Today N.A. group are: Dale M., Mike G., Jeff R., Darren R., Liz R., and Tom C. We apologize to those who have contributed and been left out of this history. The greatest weapon in recovery is the recovering addict and there are many recovering addicts who have been willing to carry the message and be responsible for a recovering fellowship in Lamed.

Not So Famous Group of Baldwin City Narcotics Anonymous

1996

The Not So Famous Group was started in mid March of 1996 by three addicts (John S., Kirk B. Miles S.) in Baldwin City. We chose to meet at the First United Methodist Church and are still meeting there. John S. and Kirk B. went to the World Convention in St. Louis that year and registered the Group at that time. We joined the Miracle Area in April the same year and have remained active members since then. When we started the meeting, we decided to have it a book study open to the public. We haven't had many members of the public attend, but do remain an open book study. We have studied the Basic Text, It Works How and Why, The Step Working Guide and the 12 concepts.

1997

In 1997 the Group hosted a Miracle Area Fun Day at the Baldwin City Lake. This has evolved into the "Baldwin Shindig" and has happened every year since. It isn't a big event – we seldom have more than twenty five people in attendance, but we do enjoy it. Traditionally it has been a pot luck with the Group providing hot dogs and hamburgers. We have had speakers from through out the Region, alternating male/female.

This is the year that we began hosting the Miracle Area Birthday Night and continued for a sixteen months, after which the activities committee took it back. We held Birthday Night in Lawrence but were the hosts.

1997 – Now

We continue to hold meetings once a week, just like we started. The Group has grown from three members to five or six core members. Once in a while we have an influx of people visiting, but usually we will have the core membership and one or two visitors. The Group remains small, but Recovery seems to be happening – at least for us.

Submitted as a joint effort by,

Kirk B.

John S.

Step X Step

My wife (Amy) and I moved to Lawrence in June of 1991. At that point in my recovery, I had committed solely to NA for meetings, fellowship and service. I had gotten clean (Aug. 9, '85) in Key West, and during the first few years of my recovery, I attended countless AA meetings, as I had been advised to do 90 in 90, and, when I got clean, there was only one NA meeting a week and it was CRAZY: the blind leading the blind; more of a 13 step program than not. Of course, with time, people began to respond to the powerful and clear message of NA literature, and in the course of my own experience, I stopped being an 'alcoholic and an addict', and became simply and addict. When I arrived at Lawrence, I had the names of a few addicts and immediately hooked-up with the NA community. I was nearly six years clean, involved in NA service and could attest, with great personal conviction, to the importance of working the 12 Steps of NA, and by extension, the importance of having an NA Step meeting within the mix of local offerings. There was no NA Step meeting in Lawrence when I arrived, nor was there a Monday night meeting.

Some of the first NA meetings I attended in Key West were held in people's homes, so for the sake of economy and practicality, we started the Step-By-Step Group of NA in our living room at 916 E. 13th Street, beginning in September of 1991. We utilized the Basic Text, starting with Step One and working through all twelve, taking turns reading aloud and sharing, completing the cycle every 12 weeks.

It was a closed step meeting, though we would sometimes vote to 'open' the meeting if circumstances dictated. Original members included Marko F., Chris H., Laura Ann H., Ron B. and Nate F. We continued to grow and within the year, we moved to an office at the Housing Project on Haskell, though I can't remember the name, unit number or date.

From there I met people named Kirk and other weirdos like Andy B. My life had never been the same. Kirk went on to become a famous publisher and Andy went on to become a famous breeder and therapist. Of course, I became the supreme ruler of the clay world. Amen.

1996-now

I attended my 1st post treatment NA meeting in Lawrence KS on a 1/13/96, Monday night and since then I haven't had to use drugs. The meeting was/is Step X Step and is my Home Group. I don't remember much of what was said at the meeting other than the "keep coming back" portion. Step X Step was a strong meeting with a strong message – the room was full – and a Sunday meeting was held at 11am. Shortly after my first meeting, the meeting location changed although it stayed in the same Housing Project. We were holding the meeting in the office and the office location changed. Since that initial move we have moved two other times, each time staying in the Housing Project. We felt and continue to feel that having a meeting in the Housing Project is not only good for us, (some of the residents remind us of the mess we had made of our own lives) but potentially good for the residents.

In 1997 (?) the 311 Club was started. At that time almost all the Groups in the Miracle Area moved to it. Step X Step and The Not So Famous Group were the only two that didn't eventually do so. This brought a large decline in attendance to the Step X Step meeting which bottomed out at just two members keeping the doors open – Kirk B. and Andy B. (not related except as sponsor/sponsee) For about six months the meeting remained two to eight members and that was all. The Sunday meeting declined to just Kirk B. keeping the doors open and then the meeting closed. At some point attendance picked up but the meeting did remain small until October – November of 2002 (?) at which time attendance once again picked up and we now have a regular attendance of twenty to twenty-five people.

Step X Step remains a closed step meeting carrying the message of Narcotics Anonymous. We would like to see all come and visit.

In Service,
Kirk Brown

Larrytown

As far as I can tell, Larrytown was started in Lawrence, Kansas in early 1979. The first meetings were held at St. Johns Church adjacent to South Park. As the oldest ongoing group in Lawrence, a lot of "Old timers" have been to Larrytown meetings. Unfortunately, I could not find out more as they were unavailable as of this writing.

More recently, I started attending Larrytown in early 1999 under the leadership of "Deb and Bob" and they involved me in service and I took over as GSR in June of that year. At that time we met in Trinity Episcopal Church. We moved to 311 E. 9th(The Clubhouse) in July of that same year. When the Clubhouse closed we moved back to Trinity Episcopal Church in the fall of 2002, where we presently meet.

Sincerely,
Scott K.
GSR Larrytown

This concludes the histories of the Groups of the Mid-America Region of Narcotics Anonymous. We hope that you have enjoyed this publication and have learned something about not only the Groups, but the Region as well.





“What is our 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.”

Pg. 65, 5th edition, Basic Text