

Letter from the Editor

Hello Friends and Family:

Welcome to the new Members of the Mid-America Region. We hope and think that this new association will be beneficial to you and us. Please let us know how we can serve you.

I hope that by now the rest of you have noticed that The M.A.N. has a different look this time – if not please have your eyes checked! After talking to the Regional literature subcommittee and explaining my reasoning for doing this, they agreed to let me go ahead on a trial basis. If you, The Fellowship and readers don't like the results, let me/us know and we will go back to the old format.

The reasons for this change are two fold. The first reason is a control issue. (Yes, I like to have control!) The smaller pages will give me more control over the publication. It will be easier to make all of the material you submit fit without having to use as much filler. When adding or deleting pages, there won't be as much paper to deal with, thus I gain more of that control. It is much easier to fill one 8.5 X 11 on both sides than it is to fill one 11 X 17 on both sides!

The second reason for this change is ease of transporting or carrying. It is my understanding that many (or at least some) of you use this publication in you meetings. I think that this will be easier for you to carry with you. You can slip it into your back pocket (or purse) and have one less thing to haul around in your hands. I know that this is easier for me – I tend to loose things that I have

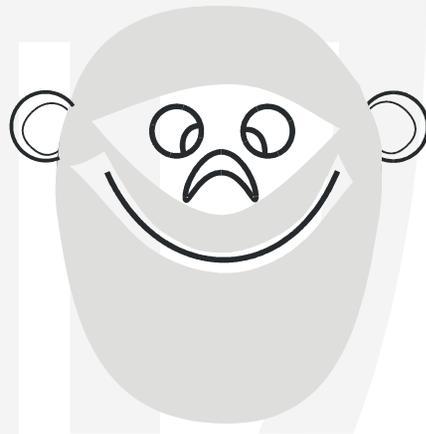
to carry in my hands. I put them down and forget to pick them back up. (That short term memory problem that continues to plague my life!)

It is my sincere hope that you find this new format a positive change, but if you don't please let me know so that I can change back to the old familiar setup. This is your publication and I/we (the literature subcommittee) want it to reflect your wishes, desires and needs. We can't do this without feed back.

I had no artwork submitted this issue, so as promised I have deleted this feature. (Except for the self-portrait below). If I get art submissions in the future, I will revive the art page.

Thank you, and may you find Peace and Love in your Recovery.

Sincerely,



Kirk B.
Publisher, The M.A.N.



Issue #13

PO Box 975
Baldwin City KS 66006
e-mail: klbertha@aol.com

December 2000

"What is our message? The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, loose the desire to use, and find a new way to live."

Pg. 65, 5th edition, Basic Text

Note: the opinions and views shared in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The M.A.N. staff, or NA as a whole.

*Thank you,
The Staff*

Never Alone

"Recovery is good" I thought to myself. "I own my trailer house, the bills are paid, I just got custody of my 12 year old son back," etc. My Home Group was to celebrate 10 years of existence the next evening and the following day would mark 1 year clean for me. NA had seen me through plenty of hard times, not the least of which was the death of my husband at 5 months clean and the ensuing legal battles with his ex-wife and her children. The program, along

with the loving support of The Fellowship had helped me to deal with the realities of life on life's terms.

On this particular evening, I and my significant other, a fellow member of NA, were rearranging stuff in my storage building. I had just handed him the last handful of clothes that had fallen on the floor when I spotted a 1" X 1" plastic bag containing a reddish powder. My mind raced – "I don't have a pocket, where can I put this, in my sock..." Then I whispered his name. He took the item from my hand, examined it closely, talking about what it could be and then stuck it in his back pocket saying "I'll take care of it." Floods of old thoughts and feelings returned. "The hell you will!" I was ready to fight. A smile spread across his face as he removed it from his pocket and said "Oh, so it's therapy time." He tore open the plastic and dumped the contents on the dirt, giving a good kick. "Go ahead, it kicked you around enough." I kicked the dirt.

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It felt good. Pretty soon I was dancing as if on the grave of my dire enemy. After flushing the plastic, we thanked God that NA also stands for Never Alone.

Kim G.
Hutchinson, KS

“Sometimes we comfort each other merely by being present: at other times, a phone call or letter simply to say hello can make a world of difference. Our relationships with other addicts are a source of strength in our personal recovery. We come to rely on meetings and on each other for that support.”

Pg. 127 It Works How and Why

Broken Dreams

*As children bring their broken toys,
With tears, for us to mend.
I took my broken dreams to God,
Because he was my friend.
And then, instead of leaving him
In peace, to work alone,
I hung around to help him
In ways that were my own.
Impatiently, I took them back,
“How can you be so slow?”
“My child” he said,
“What could I do?”
“You never did let go.”*
Anonymous

The Myth

I believed in a myth. The myth revolved around hippies, pycodellia, music, counter culture and drugs. I let my fascination of these things sink into the fabric of my very existence. As a result it has been very difficult for me to change a belief system that would kill me if I continued.

After many years of countless relapses weighted by an obsessive relationship with another addict, it became detrimental to my recovery to let go. I cut my hair and fought my obsession to return to a relationship dammed from the beginning. “My Love” for her allowed me to stay in a place where recovery was just not possible.

Needless to say, through NA I learn to love myself. I build new relationships with people whom I can call friends in a new way of life based on truth. Thanks NA for helping dispel the great myth.

Tony S. I love you M.A.N.

Day By Day Group,
Fort Scott, KS

1. We are powerless over our addiction and our lives are unmanageable;
2. Although we are not responsible for our disease, we are responsible for our recovery;
3. We can no longer blame people, places and things for our addiction. We must face our problems and our feelings.

Pg. 103, 5th edition, Basic Text

RCM's for the Mid America Region February 2000

Ray Gould

Just For Today Area

Jon McNeely

Primary Purpose

Gary Delzeit

Western Area

Brian Sanders

Central Kansas Area

Bryan Hatfield

Unity Area

Brian Alcorn

Fellowship For Freedom

Pat Brown

Wichita Metro Area

Jim Clark

Miracle Area

Officers for the Mid America Region Nov. 2000 - Feb. 2000

Chair: Tim S.
Co-Chair: Tony K.
Treasurer: Debbie S.
RD: Betty P.
RD2: John S.
Secretary: Open Position

Stacy W. filled in as secretary for the November RSC. Thank you very much Stacy. Had no one stepped forward to fill the position, we would not have been

able to conduct business. (See Roberts Rules of Order.) Stacy made it clear that this was a one time shot and that we need a full time secretary. Please consider applying for this position. You are needed if the RSC is going to continue to conduct business!

Thanks,
KB

NEXT RSC

4-H BLDG Woodside & Hickory
Streets, McPherson, KS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2001

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

(UP) ACTIVITIES
(DOWN) P I

11:00 AM - 1:00 AM

(UP) STEERING
(DOWN) OUTREACH

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

(UP) H & I
(DOWN) LITERATURE

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

(UP) CONVENTION
(DOWN) CAMPOUT

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SPEAKER MTG.

8:00 PM - 12:00 PM

DJ DANCE - AUCTION - RAFFLE

FUNDRAISER FOR CAMPOUT

**\$3 Per Person - No Addict Turned
Away**

SUNDAY FEB. 18, 2001

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

**RSC CHAIR/CO-CHAIR,
SECRETARY & TREASURER
RCM' S, ALT RCM' S
SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS &
CO-CHAIRS
MOTIONS & REQUESTS**

9:00 AM UNTIL DONE

**REGIONAL SERVICE COM-
MITTEE MEETS CHAIR/
CO-CHAIRS MOTIONS &
REQUESTS**

**The M.A.N.
11/17/2000**

Hello Family,

First I want to apologize for the lateness of the distribution of the newsletter. I ran into some unforeseen difficulties and it took time to work them out. If you have questions pertaining to those difficulties, please see me and I will be happy to discuss them with you. Second, I want to thank Jerry D. and Minuteman Press for stepping up to the plate and helping me out of a jam. Rand wasn't able to get to the printing because of the demands of the election process and the work that was generated as a result, and Minuteman Press was able to fill the gap. Thank you!

The following is a financial accounting. As you can see, the expense is a little higher than last issue. This was due to two factors: a.) the cost of printing was \$5.14 more, and b.) mailing expenses were higher. The additional mailing expense was incurred as a result of combining the mailing of the Regional Meeting List and wallet cards with the mailing of the newsletter.

Newsletter printing	Quantity	700
Unit price	\$	0.357
Total	\$	250.14
Bulk mailing cost		3
Unit price	\$	7.75
Total	\$	23.25
Bulk mailing cost		6
Unit price	\$	0.77
Total	\$	3.85

Total		700
Unit price	\$	0.40
Total	\$	277.24
		(rounded up)

I have been getting great material and encourage The Fellowship to continue sending me this "stuff". This is your newsletter and the credit for its quality (or lack there of) lies with you. Remember, this is not English 101. You don't have to create the perfect article to share your Experience, Strength and Hope. We all have stories that are worth telling. All you need to do is be honest, a Spiritual Principal that we all are working on. I can be reached at the following addresses:

*Kirk Brown
PO Box 975
Baldwin City, KS 66006
Phone (785) 594-2148
e-mail klbertha@aol.com*

The following table is an accounting for the yearly budget ending at the close of business on Sunday at the May 2001 RSC. I will be including this in my future reports.

Quarter/month	
2 nd Q. June, 00	
Starting Balance	\$1127.29
Spent	277.24
Ending Balance	\$ 850.05
Projected expenses to date	\$700.00
Actual expenses	\$549.95
Budget surplus	\$150.05
	<i>In Loving Service, Kirk B. The M.A.N. Publisher</i>

Serenity on the Move

On a lonely country road during the late afternoon, I can reach a point of tranquility. As I am peering into the distance, thin white clouds interlace with cobalt blue making the sky resemble a blue marble slab. The crescent moon points like the white end of a fingernail tip at a hazy white yellow sun. Below at the horizon, I see smudges of dark browns, mediocre greens, burnt oranges, and vibrant yellows of distant trees. The road lays unfurled from the horizon looming toward me. On each side of the road, the hills with dried prairie grasses and barren plum thickets give me the illusion and appearance of a rolling sea. Their patchwork of color looks abstract, with clusters of dark browns, tans, and highlights of rusty reds. I hear the screech of a distant

hawk mingled with the rustling of dried leaves in the trees. Also, I hear the wind moan a lonely song as it passes my ears. The wind feels cool and crisp as it collides against my face. Odors of musty damp dirt and cow manure from a nearby field assail my nostrils. As I am looking down directly in front of me. I see a blur of gray black with a solid white line. Simultaneously, I am watching my bicycle wheel spinning and jumping around. The bicycle is vibrating every variation in the road's surface into my body. Regardless, I have transcended any discomfort, pain, and even the stress of the day's events. In other words, I have acquired tranquility on a lonely country road riding my bicycle.

Allen R. Wooten

Came to believe...

People, including me, sometimes do terrible things; diseases and accidents occur; nature itself often appears remorseless and cruel. But with balance, there is a lot more love in the world than cruelty. Stop and think about it, more moms kiss their children than soldiers shoot their enemies. And just as I can call on loving friends to be there for me when I am enduring a rough day, also I can count on God to be there for me (in an instant) — not to "make all the pain go away," but rather to grant me some comfort and healing when I ask.

You know, there is a healing power

from God, but it's more like a light breeze than a sledgehammer. My God prefers to stay anonymous. He's happy to work through my heart and my desire for growth and healing. Forgiving, accepting and moving on are more sane, but just not as interesting. When I honestly look at how my life used to be and how it is today, I can see how others act in recovery when they are doing what the program suggests. I hear them tell my life story in their own experiences. I know today I am able to have feelings and to express them in a way, which will bring me closer to my higher power that I choose to call

Continued on next pg.

God. I believe God can help me survive and recover from overpowering daily experiences and other traumas, "IF" I seek his help and comfort. I believe that God is not indifferent to my suffering, but he understands that I have to go through it rather than be "rescued" from it.

Today, my decision to live a spiritual life is an entirely different matter from other systems. Today I don't need to believe in 'anything' to meditate, all I have to do is believe that I CAN meditate. I am not required to pick up anyone else's wisdom to become enlightened; but I must become willing to put down my own baggage. God can help me be restored to sanity, but not if I don't co-operate!!!! Sometimes I often ask for a cure, but then continue to do the same things that prevent the healing. Like picking a scab so that it'll never heal, I keep picking on myself for failed responses or missed opportunities, then the healing power can't get through the confusion within my own mind.

There are ways that I can become more aware and less distracted; but these ways require giving up some of my preferred habits and attitudes. I HAD grown comfortable with my life, even when things didn't work, and soon I was out drinking again. Real change requires dedication, effort, and most of all THE DECISION! Once my decision has honestly been made, there can't be a going back. I don't want to take "the vacation." The "vacation" into uncon-

sciousness (has recently shown me) a retirement of spiritual principles. My vacation was endless, even today I remember, . . . A spiritual life is not dependent on whom I call God. People, who do miracles in and out of the rooms, do so because of their personal vision, not because they are "correct." If I can come to believe in who I really am, then it is no dream. I must always remember, "What I am is God's gift to me, what I become is my gift to God." (I heard this in the rooms).

I am not perfect; at times I am still tired, and I snore, and I fart. Like it or not, I still have to deal with everyday reality. Dealing with these ups and downs is simply helped with prayers. Sometimes the simplest prayers are the best. I look for the simplest words and the most heartfelt thoughts, and I close my eyes and just say: God, please show me what I need to do, and give me the courage and will to do so. Please help me to be the person I always wanted to be, Please lift my spirits and help me be at peace, Please give me comfort, contentment and joy, Please help me forgive others and myself. Please bless me, and those who care about me; and those who don't.

Burt B. c. 11.22.2000

"Belief in a Power greater than ourselves does not come easily to all of us. However, we have found an open mind indispensable when we approach this step."
Pg 20, It Works How and Why

M.A.R.C.N.A. XVIII Registration form - Please fill out and mail in! Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to chair:
 Workshop
 Marathon Meeting

Make checks payable to:
M.A.R.C.N.A. XVIII
 C/O Kirk Brown
 PO Box 975
 Baldwin City, KS, 66006

<i>Before</i>	<i>2/24/2001</i>	<i>After</i>	<i>2/24/2001</i>
Registration:	\$15.00	\$17.00	_____
Banquet:	13.00	15.00	_____
Breakfast Buffet:	9.00	11.00	_____

Henley Shirt/Coffee Mug (*only* available with preregistration) \$25.00 _____

Shirt size(s): XL _____, L _____, M _____ (XXL + \$2.00 _____)

TOTAL ENCLOSED (\$) _____

(From The M.A.N.)

The Mid-America Region of
Narcotics Anonymous
is pleased to present:

M.A.R.C.N.A. XVIII
"THE MESSAGE"
MARCH 30-31-APRIL 1, 2001

Where: The Ramada Inn
1400 N. Lorraine
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Phone: 1 (800) 362-5018
(316) 669-9311

For further info. call: Pat B. (Convention Chair)
(316) 269-3275
Kirk B. (Registration Chair)
(785) 594-2148

Room Rates: \$63.00 + Tax (Flat Rate)
(Note: This rate is good only through
March 16

Please Note: any Group, Area or Vendor wishing to sell at the Alternative Store must have pre-approval from the convention committee by February 24, 2001. Please send request along with a letter from GSR, RCM or a copy of current vendor license to committee. Furthermore, all goods must be NA related. No goods from other Fellowships will be permitted for sale at this convention. Additionally, no jewelry may be sold at the Alternative Store; our contract with the jeweler prohibits this practice.

PREREGISTRATION DEADLINE
(postmarked on or before): 2/24/2001

Preregistration form found on next page - Please fill out and send in. The address is found on the form.

Regional Web Site Update

NA Family,

After several months of searching, a server has been found to host the MidAmerica Region Website. The domain name www.MidAmericaRegionNA.com now works. Content is being accumulated so the information available to the public is not only current, but useful.

Please visit our website and email marscna@hotmail.com anything that should be changed, updated, or revised.

The computer our website is running on is a Power Macintosh running LinuxPPC. This is a temporary solution, and eventually a web hosting service will need to be found (in other words, a place that charges money to host a website).

If anyone is interested in the more technical details, please send your questions to the above email address.

Thanks,
Bob K.

My "Open Wings"

The places I've been
The mistakes I've made
The people I've known
The games I've played
Of all of these things
Of none I'm ashamed
I've left a path of destruction
Always the one who was
blamed

Today, in my life
I've learned from it all
Today I have the choice
To make the right call
The past though no longer
afraid of

I dwell on at times
But if I stay there too long
I notice the signs
This life that I've lived
Some good some bad
Some moments were happy
Some moments were sad
This life I now live
Can still have some of these
things

But all will be well
When I open my wings.

Jim

WHAT IS IT?

Public information is informing the public about recovery from addiction through the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous. The purpose of a public information subcommittee is to inform the public that NA exists and offers recovery from the disease of addiction.

WHO DOES IT?

Public information work is accomplished through service committees directly responsible to those they serve. These PI subcommittees provide community awareness of what NA is, as well as how, when, and where we are available.

HOW DOES IT GET DONE?

We get the job done by establishing clear guidelines for our subcommittees, setting goals, prioritizing tasks, adhering to our Twelve Traditions, and a lot of hard work!

Pg. 1 A Guide To Public Information, 1991

Thanks PI subcommittee! We appreciate your hard work!

GRATEFUL

Oh, how grateful I am for just
A second chance.
You see, I took my first one for granted
So my addiction and I could dance.
I listened to the music with
Each step and every high.
What my addiction didn't tell me,
Is that at the end of the dance
I could die.
When I didn't like who I was or
Saw things going wrong,
I just got high and played
A different song.
I kept seeing my life going down
In a fast forward motion,
But my addiction seemed to have that
Magical, problem-free potion.
Until one day the music stopped.
Reality hit me hard like a rock.
It knocked me down, flat on my face.
Just then I began to remember
Being in this exact same

place.
I felt so scared and lonely,
I didn't know what to do.
It was then that God decided
To give me a chance at Life
Number Two.
He took me to a place
Where people learned
A new way to live.
They would teach me what they've learned
With love and so much to give.
All I had to do was just have the desire,
Then learn how to live clean and sober,
And believe in a Higher Power.
The people have become my family,
And in recovery is where I choose to stay.
I am grateful for my Second Life;
With God and the family of NA.
Staci B.

"Spirituality enables us to live live to its fullest, feeling grateful for who we are and for what we have done in life. Since the beginning of our recovery, we have found that joy doesn't come from material things, but from within ourselves."
Pg. 103, 5th edition, Basic Text

met then that are still coming back.
And I have continued to meet new friends every year that I come back.
The reason I do service is, not to be able to say that I did this or I did that, but rather that I can do service for the rest of my life and will never be able to pay back to this fellowship what I have been so freely given.
In Loving Service, Von P.

Upcoming Regional/Area Events



**PHOENIX GROUP'S ANNUAL
NEW YEARS EVE DANCE
KENWOOD HALL, SALINA, KS**

(ACROSS FROM THE
BI-CENTENNIAL CENTER)

DECEMBER 31, 2000

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

SPEAKER AT 7:00 P.M.

**DANCE AT 8:00 P.M.
\$3.00 PER PERSON
AUCTION AND RAFFLE**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL:
MICHELLE AT (785)823-9698
JOHN AT (785)827-8635**

**MID-AMERICA
REGIONAL CAMPOUT
COMMITTEE
PRESENTS THE**

**23rd ANNUAL
4th of JULY CAMPOUT
GOING THE
DISTANCE!**

WHEN: June 29th - July 1st
WHERE: Lucas Park Group
Camp
Wilson Lake,
Wilson, KS.

***FUN, FELLOWSHIP, &
RELAXING***

**THE WORLDS LONGEST
CONTINUALLY
RUNNING**

FREE CAMPOUT!

NO DOGS OR FIREWORKS

ALLOWED!!!

CONTACT:

Von P. (316) 628-7925 or
Dave R. (785) 862-2889



morning. They make travel and lodging arrangements if necessary for the speakers. They also plan activities for the weekend for the kids and the even bigger kids, such as games and workshops. They also arrange for the entertainment for Friday and Saturday nights.

The catering chair's job is to arrange for the Saturday evening meal and to see that there is tea, Gatorade, and coffee available all weekend. They have to purchase all the supplies that are required to last all weekend. There have been as few as 200 and as many as 400+ people fed on Saturday night over the years.

The fundraising chair's job is to procure the shirts for the event and the pre-event shirts, as directed by the committee, and auction and raffle items, all proceeds of which go toward paying for the weekend.

The last three positions entail a lot of effort and time and the whole committee pitches in to help get the jobs done. Fundraising goes on throughout the year, but mainly at the campout itself. There is only one fundraising event held for sure - sometimes two or rarely three held before the campout. The committee is given \$1000.00 seed money by the RSC and uses this to generate enough to pay for everything. Some years the committee is able to give back the seed, money and then some, and other years it can only give back part of the seed money.

However, we must remember that the campout is a celebration of recov-

ery and not intended to make money. The committee tries to follow the 12 Concepts of Service and pays very close attention to how the money entrusted to it is used by doing everything as frugally as possible. We also try to locate the campout so it is equally accessible by as many addicts as possible from all areas of the region.

One thing that makes the campout different than any other celebration of recovery is that it is completely at the mercy of the elements. I have camped in severe thunderstorms for 3 nights in a row but every day was gorgeous. I've seen it above 110 degrees with no breeze whatsoever for 3 days. I've seen tents blown all over the place. I've seen 6 inches of water flowing through my tent like a river. Every year is a new adventure. I can't wait to see what my Higher Power has in store for us this year.

And through it all, the committees have dealt with it to the best of their ability to see that everything that is supposed to happen, happens. It is NEVER EXACTLY as it is planned, but it ALWAYS TURNS OUT EXACTLY AS IT IS SUPPOSED TO! And I have yet to go away from a campout without a spiritual feeling.

Through serving with other people on this committee off and on over the years, I have gained many close friends that I would have never had the chance to meet otherwise. I have been going to this campout since 1984, and I love to see friends that I

Continued on next pg.

Memories of a New Comer

I recall a new comer walking through the doors of NA a while back. They were experiencing a mixture of emotions...fear, anxiety and desperation topped the list. Hope must have been on the list somewhere or I don't think that they would have been there. This could be anyone's story, but it's not, you see this person was me.

I remember still the feeling of being a new comer. It was not my first meeting, but it had been so long that it might as well have been. I really wasn't certain what to expect; had no real expectations...just wanted something different and was willing to give this a try. I sat just inside of the doorway, you know, near the exit. Isn't that where most new comers sit? I never thought much about it at the time, but have you ever noticed that this is typical for new comers? We don't feel comfortable in this "alien" environment and want to keep our options for escape open. (Not to mention, I have met a few "aliens" in these rooms too - right Kevin?). I remember sitting there watching the happenings around me. I don't know about you guys, but at that time, I definitely did not feel like the most important person in the room, despite the fact that I have heard others say this from the first time I walked into these rooms. Actually, I heard a speaker recently say that the new comer is not the most important per-

*IT STARTED OUT PUPPY
LOVE
LIKE THE BEAUTIFUL
TURTLE DOVE
I WAS YOUNG AND SO
ALIVE
TO LIVE I DID STRIVE
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG
FROM ONE TO ANOTHER
SOON MY LIFE WAS
STARTING TO SMOTHER
ONE THING THEN THE
NEXT
I LEARNED IT WELL LIKE
FROM A TEXT
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG
BEFORE I KNEW THAT MY
LIFE WAS ALMOST
THROUGH
DID I SAY NO? NO...
I DID NOT KNOW WHICH
WAY TO GO
I COULD NOT COPE WITH-
OUT MY DOPE
LOOKING FOR MY STAR
THROUGH A SCOPE
THEN ONE DAY IT CAME
TO REST
I STARTED A LIFE LONG
QUEST
I WANTED TO LIVE FREE
FROM IT
ACTIVE ADDICTION I
MUST QUIT
TODAY I SAY NOPE TO
DOPE
THROUGH NA I'VE
LEARNED TO COPE

FOREVER GRATEFUL
ADDICT JACK*

Continued on next pg.

son in the room, that they are just as important as you and me, and that much I may agree with. The person may not be, but the message from the new comer is a very important message. First off, they remind us that life isn't any better in the using world than it was when we were out there using. Also, they provide us with a opportunity to share our experience, strength and hope. Lastly, they allow us an opportunity for continuing the NA program.

For every new comer reading this, I hope that you keep coming back...WE DO NEED YOU! And for those that judge the new comers, just remember that you were once a new comer too. I know for a fact that there were people who did not expect me to get clean or to stay around, let a lone stay clean (many of these people shared this fact with me later), but I did. If you see a new comer in a meeting, take the time to talk with them and make them feel welcome. Don't just give "lip service" to passing out your phone number. Don't make them feel judged. They are whipped enough from life already; what they need now is encouragement. When I see a new comer in a meeting, it always takes me back to my first meetings and the assortment of feelings I experienced. I see these people who are new in recovery and I say to them, don't get discouraged. Hang in there and keep trying. It is worth it.

I look back at this that I have written and I ask myself...have I been too

preachy or sound like I am lecturing? What are my motives behind what I have written? When I look at my motives they are pure enough. I just wanted to share some about how I felt as a new comer and remind others what being a new comer is like. That being the case, I guess I am done. I remember what they say...after 5 minutes, nobody is listening. If you have read this, thanks for letting me share; and if you have not, it's your loss.

Hugs to all...from Dori D.

Outreach Works

Why are the Groups in S.E. Kansas NOT involved with the Mid-America Region? This question is one that has puzzled me since I moved to the Mid-America Region about 7 years ago.

After being involved with Outreach for awhile, I decided a more important question was "Who were these Groups, what towns had NA meetings, what were they doing both in service and activities.

I had to start somewhere, so I asked my Home Area, JFT, if they were willing to, if needed, start or form a new Area Service Committee.

I heard about a function in Ft. Scott and went with a couple of friends. We met several people that were involved in service with some of the S.E. Kansas Groups. I felt there was enough interest to continue on.

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Getting to know your subcommittee's

Campout Committee

Hi Family,

My name is Von P. and I am an addict. Also, I have been given the privilege to serve the Narcotics Anonymous community of the Mid-America Region through its Regional Service Committee as the "4th of July Campout" Sub-Committee Chairperson. Wow, what a mouthful! Ha! It's a lot easier to talk about than to write about. I have been asked to explain what the Campout Committee has to do in order to put on the Campout each year. By the way, this Campout is the longest, continually running, FREE campout in the fellowship to my knowledge.

First, at the end of the Campout each year, the closing meeting is held by the committee. It is then that the next years chair and co-chair, at least, are elected. And if there are willing members of the fellowship in attendance, the rest of the committee positions are filled as they were this past year. Usually, but not always, the co-chair is elected into the chair position. Then, at the August Regional Service Committee Meeting, the chairperson's election is confirmed by the Regional Committee Members (RCMs), who represent the 8 Areas of the Region.

The service positions on the committee are as follows - chair, co-chair, treasurer, secretary, programming, catering and fundraising.

It used to be that the first thing the committee had to do was to select a location to hold the campout. But, because of the reservation procedure having changed for the locations that will hold the number of people that attend, the current year's committee has to reserve next year's location 360 days in advance. Now, the first thing the committee does is choose a Theme for the campout, then develop ideas for shirts and other fundraising items.

The chair leads the committee meetings and helps out in whatever capacity is needed by the committee's various positions. It is his/her job to see that everything is going according to schedule. Also, the chair reports to the RSC every quarter on the committee's progress.

The co-chair's job is to learn what the chair's job is and to lead the committee meetings in the chair's absence if necessary and to help with the various positions as needed.

The treasurer's job is to track all the funds of the committee - income and expense, and give a detailed report to the committee which is past on to the RSC every quarter.

The secretary keeps minutes of every meeting, which are incorporated into the chair's report to the RSC.

The programming chair's job is to arrange for the 3 speakers for Friday and Saturday night, and Sunday

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6-12p.m. Come and enjoy recovery and have fun with the Unity Area Hope to see you there!!!!

Bryan Hatfield
RCM

Western Area RCM Report

Greetings from Western Area,

We held elections in October and most area positions were filled. I'm the new RCM and Robin D. from Dodge is our Alt. RCM.

The Spiritual Retreat at Ford County Lake went over well and there was good attendance.

Western Area is holding their annual Breaking the Wind chili feed on Jan. 13th at Club One. Date and place are still tentative, we are waiting to see if the building is available.

We are still carrying five H&I meetings in our area. We are also in the process of getting radio PSA's into the radio stations. Tapes have been delivered and we are waiting patiently to hear them played.

I have the area conscience on the two motions that were taken back to the groups.

That's it for now!

In Service,
Gary D.

Wichita Metro Area RCM report

To the Mid America Region of Narcotics Anonymous,

Happy Thanksgiving from the Wichita Metro Area. We hope your holidays are filled with joy, peace and serenity.

We'd like to welcome our new Alt RCM, Julie from Wichita. She

was unable to attend this RSC due to prior commitments. We look forward to serving with her.

Our area is continuing to grow. Unity group has begun 8:00am meeting Monday through Friday mornings, and 9:00am on Saturdays and Sundays. They are not on the meeting lists yet, as they have not been meeting for 3 months. Waterman St. NA has changed their name to Day by Day NA. There were several events for recovery over the last few months that were filled with recovery, fun and fellowship.

WMA is sponsoring a MARCNA XVIII fundraiser on January 27th, 2001 in Wichita. Details are still being worked out, so the information will be sent to each RCM when things are finalized.

We are making an \$80.00 donation to the Region.

Here's wishing you all the safest of Holidays.

In Service,
Pat B.
WMA

"A surrender to Group conscience means we allow our fellowship to be shaped by a loving Higher Power. We are tempted sometimes to take control of the daily affairs of our Group, our service board, or our committee, believing that our great concern for the fellowship's welfare could never lead us astray. However, as we become more trusting, we realize that the Group is directed by a loving Higher Power."

Pg. 137 It Works How and Why

I met with some people from the Clean and Crazy Group at Chanute. They agreed to host a meeting.

So on October 7th at 2p.m. many warm body's came together at Chanute to discuss becoming an Area Service Body.

The 1st and 2nd meetings were called Unity Workshop Meetings. We elected a temporary secretary, April S.. I chaired the 2 Unity meetings. We introduced ourselves and discussed where every Group was in service.

We sent two questions back to the Groups.

- 1) Would they support forming a new Area?
- 2) If so, which Region would they join?

The 2nd Unity meeting was held November 4th at 1p.m. in Chanute. The first order of business was to find out the answer to the two questions raised at the previous meeting. The answer to the 1st question, with a unanimous vote, was "yes" to join together. The answer to the 2nd question, with a unanimous vote, was to belong to the Mid-America Region.

For December, January and February business will be conducted with the JFT Area trusted servants, with April as secretary. The Area meetings will be held in Chanute on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1p.m.

More will be revealed.

Thanks,
Peace, Love and NA
Denny C.

The following are the new Groups to the JFT Area. Thank you for being a "Part Of" the Mid-America Region and a BIG WELCOME from the all of us.

CHANUTE

Clean and Crazy Group

April S. GSR

FORT SCOTT

Day by Day Group

Hank Y. GSR

INDEPENDENCE

Freebirds Group

Susie S. GSR

PARSONS

A Way to Recover Group

Charles G. GSR

COFFEYVILLE

We Do Recover Group

Denzel M. GSR

PITTSBURG

Delphia S. Member

"Outreach to isolated NA groups provides a beneficial and much needed service. A Group that is the recipient of these efforts is assured of its welcome in the fellowship. The Group will feel a sense of belonging and, consequently, will take an interest in the workings of NA, supplying trusted servants who will invest time and energy into the growth and development of NA as a whole."

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AREA REPORTS:

Fellowship for Freedom RCM Report

Hello family!

My apologies for not being here at the last RSC. FYI our area is currently dealing with financial difficulties. I am asking for advice on several issues.

1. Convention running amuck ie. keeping all monies from the convention previous. In my opinion there is a lot of personalities before principles. Our area encountered financial difficulties. Rather than give the area money to help the area, convention was only willing to loan the area money. The convention is well above their prudent reserve. In my opinion, what I see happening is the convention operating as a separate entity from the area. I don't believe this should be happening.

2. An area sets into policy to send \$50.00 a month to the Region. Then cannot change that policy even when they don't have the money to send.

3. The nomination and voting in a of a co-chair suspected of theft and fraud.

From my experience; with dissension comes chaos and turmoil. However, throughout history, dissension also creates bonds and unity. The strength of those bonds can build balance. I hope this is the case. All groups are the same address and all votes on motions are as follows.

- Motion 1 à pass
- Motion 2 à pass
- Motion 3 à abstain

The next RSCM will be my last one as RCM for FFF area. I will however keep coming back. I thank you all for the knowledge and insight of recovery and service work that I have gained from you all.

In loving service,
Brian A.

Central Kansas Area Regional Report

The CKA has had its struggles since the last regional meeting. The Pratt group has folded and the Great Bend group is struggling due to lack of support and loosing their meeting house. Great Bend could use some help with the upcoming chili-bowl. Any volunteers could contact Becky G. 316-653-7385 or the numbers on the flyer. On a good note the Osborne group has joined the CKA. We are happy to welcome them to the area! The H&I is struggling in CKA due to lack of volunteers! It has been taking meetings into the Larned Correctional facility. A request for help is being sent to the region for help with the Ellsworth facility as well as the Larned facility!

There are two functions coming up in the CKA one is Christmas Dreams on December 2nd and Chili-Bowl on December 16th, there are a few flyers available.

This is my last regional meeting

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on my term of RCM for the CKA. I thank the RSC for letting me be a part of this level of service work. It has been a growing experience that will always stay deep in my heart and I will carry all the strength hope and experience I was given here to the next region I am moving to.

In Loving Service
Brian S.

Just for Today Area RCM report

Hi Family,

I have some exciting stuff to report.

The Just for Today Area (JFT) has just recently grown by leaps and bounds!!! Over the past several months we have been getting together with groups down in S.E. Kansas. We voted at the first of this month that these groups become part of the JFTA and subsequently the Mid-America Region. So now the JFTA consists of 10 (ten) groups in 9 (nine) counties. The list of updated groups and meeting times have been turned into the PI Chair.

I also have a motion from the JFT Area that I will present in new business.

As a personal note, the Febuary RSC will be my last one as the RCM of the JFT Area. It has been a position of personal and spiritual growth. However, rest assured that the MARSCNA has not seen the last of Ray G.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Ray G.

Primary Purpose RCM Report

Hi Family,

Well, things seem to be going fairly smooth with our new area. All five groups were present at our last service meeting. That was a first. Our co-chair, Dennis O. resigned. At this time, we are without a co-chair. We also elected a new treasurer, Jack A. from Hutchinson.

Our area is also in the process of forming a literature stockpile to meet group and area needs. The two motions sent back to groups the the last RSC were discussed and I have the area conscience on both motions. The groups in Primary Purpose are having many upcoming functions. There are several flyers on the table.

That's all for now.

In Loving Service,
Jon Mc.

Unity Area RCM Report

Everything is starting to get a little better in the area. More people are starting to starting to step up for service work, hope it keeps growing.

Area votes on minutes:

Motion from activities: Passed 5-2-0

Motion to update regional policy/guidelines: Passed 6-1-0

We currently have 7 groups in our area. We are also putting on a free dance and karaoke with a D.J.: before the dance there will be a speakers meeting and chili feed. It will be held at the Municipal Building in Junction City which is located at 7th and Jefferson. It will run from

Continued on next pg.