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Month Year

RECOVERY

In Action

Serving Southeastern Arizona

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Persistence
By Robert D.

Hey y'all, writing about persistence. Oh my! I have wanted to get clean since my early teens. I'm 56 now. My favorite sayin' is that it is over time not overnight. I well understand that. All the false steps and missteps, they were the learning experiences that have gotten me to this place in my life. That I'm truly willing to surrender. Having tried doing it my way for a very long time— it has never worked, and also in this journey that I've reached a point that I'm addressing core issues that are what kept me sick and suffering long after I was beaten and it's been only through persistence that I have been able to come to see my place in the world, the fellowship, and just in life. Finding the freedom that I have sought for so very long. I thank the god of my understanding, the fellowship that has stood behind me. Even when I didn't feel as if I belonged. Today I am truly grateful for my place in life. I love you each and everyone: well maybe not everyone, I'm human.

Rebellion Against an Open Mind
By Kati M.

As an addict, I can tend towards being rebellious and stubborn. It has caused many stumbling blocks in my recovery, but the greatest example of this was a time that I didn't even consider "rebellion" until I saw it in hindsight years later. I struggled to stay clean for several years in NA. I went to meetings, worked steps with a sponsor, but when it came down to picking up the phone or picking up the drugs, I used every time. Now, I wanted desperately to stay clean, so I was perplexed at why I picked up so easily, like I was on autopilot. I would fight myself the whole way through the relapse, but it was like I couldn't stop my own actions. It was a terrifying experience that I went through again and again. I didn't realize it at the time, but when the thought of using placed itself in my head, I closed my mind around it so tightly that I couldn't talk myself into letting go. There are many paradoxes in this program. One we refer to a lot is "Surrender to win". Something I don't hear mentioned, though, is that open-mindedness as it applies to NA can feel like closed-mindedness to the addict who isn't used to it. After all, I had no experience with NA's sort of open-mindedness. How would I know how it's supposed to feel? Open-mindedness to the active addict is our "Hey, I'll try anything once!" attitude, which is what got us here in the first place! I needed a new kind of open-mindedness, and to achieve that, I had to open my mind to a new idea of what open-mindedness actually was! Instead of the whimsical, impulsive sort of open-mindedness I had practiced in the past, I needed to open my mind to the idea that something which had been such an integral part of my life – using drugs – was something I could NEVER do successfully. That's a big word, never. We stay clean one day at a time, but the reason for that is that as addicts, we are incapable of using successfully – EVER. Once I "closed" my mind to the idea of being able to use successfully, things started to change. It was scary at first, because it was all new. But then, I started experiencing the miracles of this program. I lost the desire to use, and I gained the ability to feel in control of my actions. This ability allowed me to practice integrity. I didn't have to worry about my body running off to do something my mind never gave it permission to do! If I said I would do something, I felt

confident in my ability to do it. If I fell short, I could make a sincere amends instead of becoming defensive and making excuses. I no longer feel afraid to give someone my word, because I know I have the capability to keep it. Through closing my mind to the idea that I could use successfully, I opened my mind, body, and spirit to a new way of life, and with that new way of life has come gifts that I once thought impossible.

Strange Prophet of Joy:
Anonimo 9/16/16

He chooses to call himself "Anonimo". Probably because it sounds like Geronimo, the great Indian chieftain, or something like that (but more anonymous). He is often "a-fire" with joyful enthusiasm. Probably not dangerous, but that may be something for the Fellowship to decide upon.

You see, Anonimo believes he has a "priority Message from the Highest Power", directed to NA as a whole. When he gets on a real roll, he sometimes shouts like a preacher, sometimes cries like a baby, sometimes laughs pretty loudly, sometimes looks kind of stern and "presidential". A fascinating mix of strangeness, even for a member of a bunch of recovering junkies. Anonimo would be fairly easy to write off as a mere "basket-case" except for his decades of clean-time, and the fact that this "priority Message" could actually be from our Ultimate Authority, as he claims. Maybe. But I will ask the reader to come to your own conclusion, if you read that far. Here is the short form of what he says we all need to know:

"NOW is the time to prepare, for the greatly increased growth of NA, in all the world! It's coming!" Simple message... Positive... Dramatic... Hopeful... But, though I consider him a friend in recovery, I do see some potential warning flags. Narcotics Anonymous tends to be wary, with good reason, of any highly impassioned pleas (especially when financial resources are involved, naturally). And there is much wisdom in going slow around overly emotional causes. Plus, the "messenger", in this case, isn't exactly an ideal or model sponsor/speaker/trusted-servant. On the other hand, wouldn't it be just like an HP with a sense of humor to use an unlikely candidate as a temporary spokes-person? Also, why do I feel a bit of "heart-tug" when I hear him speak about his "magnificent obsession"? These seem like questions for some serious 11th Step consideration. So I plan, if allowed, to take a closer and prayerful look at what Anonimo seems to be driving at, with a series of articles. Does it fit with what

we know of NA, is it in line with the Steps and Traditions, could the God of our understanding be trying to prepare us for some events to come in the near future? If, by some beyond-natural probability, this basic message were to be "authorized" by a world-wide group conscience, it could have some interesting impacts on Fellowship development planning. Or if, by some more-natural probability, it does not pass the "inspired idea test" in enough recovering addicts, then it can take its place as just one more "pipe-dream" from a wannabe spiritual-guru. Anyone who truly resonates with the content of these articles could, of course, send them on to their friends in other cities/states and countries, and they could then forward them on to other cities/states and countries. Then there is always the possible vehicle of the NA Way Magazine. We'll see... The next article will likely deal with the concern that we live only "just for today", so why prepare for the future? If you, dear reader, have any feedback, pro-, con- or indifferent, please pass it on to our newsletter editor, and it will be considered carefully.

Thanks much,
Dean W.

a friend of Anonimo

Happy Birthday!

Proof that the program works!

Denise S. ~ 10/22/2010

James T. ~ 10/23/2013

Michelle G. ~ 10/24/2010

If you have a clean date birthday of one or more years,
please email it to Newsletter@natucson.org

Upcoming Events in and around AZ

CRCNA XXX, Never Alone, Colorado Springs, CO, Oct 28-30, 2016

MACCNA VIII - "Recovery Never Stops" Yuma, AZ, March 10, 11, &12, 2017, Shilo Inn Hotel 928-782-9511, Send Speaker CD's to P.O. Box 6287, Yuma, AZ 85366 or 340 S Main Street, Yuma, AZ 85364 Attn: Dan, More Info Call 928-502-2201

SEAZNAC III is Awarding Basic Registrations for the Chosen Convention Theme Artwork! See [SEAZNAC III](#) webpage for more Info

URMRCNA XVIII, No Matter What..., Cheyenne, WY, May 26-28, 2017

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC!

Inventories!

This can be seen in the 4th and 10th steps and it is a vital part of recovery. How do you approach yours and what tips do you have for the newcomer who may be approaching theirs?

Subcommittee Service

SEAZNA Area Service Committee

2 p.m. on 2nd Sunday of each Month
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church
5360 E. Pima St. (west of Craycroft)

Activities Subcommittee

Contact activities@natucson.org

Hospitals & Institutions Subcommittee

12:30 p.m., Second Sunday of the month
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church
5360 E. Pima St. (west of Craycroft)

Mt. Lemmon Bash Subcommittee

Contact contactbash@natucson.org

Newsletter Subcommittee

Contact newsletter@natucson.org

Outreach Subcommittee

Contact outreach@natucson.org for more information.

Phoneline Subcommittee

Contact Judy Crandall [520-245-2697](tel:520-245-2697)

Public Relations Subcommittee

Meeting held on line, contact pr@natucson.org for details

Phoneline is looking for Spanish-Speaking volunteers to be of service! (phoneline@natucson.org)

AREA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Please check the website www.natucson.org for updates and more information



Medallion Night and Potluck: Last Monday of the month @ First United Methodist Church (915 E. 4th street). Show up at 7 if you are getting a medallion (1 year or more) meeting starts @ 7:30pm.



Monday Night Underground Speaker Meeting: 3rd Monday each month.



Bowling! First Sunday of the Month! 4:30pm, 1010 W. Miracle Mile, \$1 per game, \$1 for shoes, fun & fellowship

Meeting Changes, Support, Service Opportunities

Northwest new beginnings now meets Tuesdays at 6:00 PM instead of 7:00 PM. Same location, Golder Ranch Fire Department.

The three points meeting is closing due to no attendance .

The former "Tuesday Closed Meeting" held at 8pm at The Paxton House; 1626 N. Richey has changed it's name. The new name is "Tuesday Fireside Meeting" and is now an "open" meeting.

The Sunday morning Groundhog meeting is at 10AM not 1030AM.

The 12 noon groundhog meeting M W F is closing.

Want to share your Experience, Strength, and Hope?

Submit your recovery related stories,

poems, jokes, etc. to:

RECOVERY IN ACTION

(newsletter@natucson.org)

Don't know what to submit?

Ask your Sponsor for ideas!

~ AREA EVENTS ~

SEAZNAC III is Awarding Basic Registrations for the Chosen Convention Theme Artwork! See [SEAZNAC III](#) webpage for more Info

Desert recovery will do a thanksgiving dinner as part of their regularly scheduled meeting on wednesday, november 25th. 7pm at episcopal lutheran church in Benson. Potluck style, bring a dish!

Arizona GSR Regional Fall Assembly, Nov 12th, 9:00am, 213 South Colcord, Payson, AZ



Zombie Apocalypse Party, Oct 28th, 915 E. Fourth St. upstairs, flyer to come

Submission Disclaimer: All material submitted becomes property of the Newsletter Sub-Committee and will be edited for content, length, and clarity of the NA message.