



# THE MAINLINE

FEBRUARY 2016

*Greetings,*

*We write you as representatives of Heroin Anonymous World Services (HAWWS). This informational bulletin's purpose is to increase communication between the groups of Heroin Anonymous throughout the world.*

## MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Out of Hell" Group – Atlanta, GA

The Out of Hell group of Heroin Anonymous meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Triangle Club in Atlanta, Georgia. At our first meeting on February 8, seventeen people attended. By the third week, we were excited to have twenty-five. Presently, we have nineteen home group members and are very excited to have made such a strong start as

a group. Our group has four members serving in service positions. They are Jonathan W (Secretary), Catherine D (Treasurer), Matt P (Chairperson), and Ben L (Group Contact). We have already begun planning intergroup activities and look forward to meeting more of our brothers and sisters in recovery as time goes on. Our meetings are mostly

open discussion with the exception of the last meeting of the month, which is a speaker meeting. We invite anyone searching for a path out of the hell of heroin addiction to attend our meeting and enjoy what a sober life with sober friends has to offer.

## BEING OF SERVICE TO HAWWS

Over recent months we have received many questions regarding how members can be of service to HAWWS. We very much appreciate those of you who are looking to help the fellowship and we hope to

address such questions in the following paragraphs.

Readers may recall an article for a Conference Chair on the HAWWS board in October 2015. This position has been filled. This is an enormous undertaking! This

HA member has, in essence, volunteered to construct a platform for the entire fellowship to make decisions by a group conscience. This is a new experience for us! Like other 12-step fellowships have defined a hierarchy of

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groups which comprise an "up-side-down pyramid" service structure, we hope to establish a similar organization in Heroin Anonymous.

To prepare for this, we ask that you, the fellowship of Heroin Anonymous, consider creating larger group consciences of your own. Around the country, meetings have sprung up all over. Some states, counties, and regions, have come to the realization that they may be of better service if they combine their efforts by creating groups where meeting representatives can discuss their meeting's status, place bulk orders for chips and literature, organize fundraisers, and other such functions.

When the first conference of Heroin Anonymous takes

place, this level of organization will be vital to its success. On the HAWS web site, you can find two documents which may be helpful in this endeavor (links provided below). The first is an extremely general explanation of how to form one of these "Area" meetings. The second is the guidelines for the Phoenix "Intergroup". They have volunteered this information because it has worked for them. We hope these documents are helpful to you in these endeavors and if we can help, please contact us and we'd love to share our experience with you.

Just to clarify, because we have not yet established terminology for the structure of our fellowship, you may hear some inconsistencies

regarding familiar structural definitions from other 12-step fellowships. For example, the Phoenix "Intergroup" may seem like they perform functions where such responsibilities in AA are divided between an "Intergroup" and a "Subdistrict". For now, we ask that you remain calm. Our fellowship is adolescent at best, and the appointment of a Conference Chair is a great leap toward defining our service structure.

We welcome and encourage your correspondence. Thank you for your service to the fellowship where we found freedom!

-Heroin Anonymous World Services Board

### **Outline and Description of an Area Business Meeting:**

<http://www.heroinanonymous.org/Outline%20of%20a%20Multigroup%20Meeting.pdf>

### **Heroin Anonymous Intergroup Guidelines:**

<http://www.heroinanonymous.org/Intergroup%20Guidelines%20Rewrite%201.pdf>

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## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION OF H.A.

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**Short Version:** *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, television and films.*

**Long Version (A.A.):** *Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never a need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.*

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Of course our new members may want to keep their membership confidential out of fear of personal imprisonment, loss of their job or place of residence. We wouldn't want them to avoid HA for fear of us exposing them and we wish to offer them an environment where they can feel safe to ask for help. Then they can be shown in the twelve steps how their dark past may be the only line long enough to reach the person who hasn't found our solution.

Why practice personal anonymity at the public level? If any member ever went public, the name of HA could be permanently attached to that personality. What if that individual then relapsed or participated in any controversy? Have you ever judged and strayed from religion because of its members? Have you ever lost faith in government because of its politicians? A member's past actions or future missteps, perceived by the outside world as the face of H.A. could permanently mar our public image and therefore cut a vital lifeline. Therefore we feel our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. If our true aim is to share a message of hope with those who seek help, why risk turning away even one person with personality clashes rather than attracting them with universal principles.

Why not practice sensational advertising, it works really well right? Well heroin works really well in the beginning too but invariably we have to pay the price for taking short cuts to happiness. If something is that great why would it require any extra hype at all? Actions speak louder than words and who knows this better than an addict? How many of us have fallen for exciting sales hype and the use of big names only to be disappointed or feel misled? How many of us feel distrust for someone who praises themselves or puts down others? We have discovered that spiritual principles speak for themselves when practiced.

What attracts? When we live our program's spiritual principles we find genuine freedom, and a quality life that keeps us coming back. When new members see recovered heroin addicts sharing this with one another freely, they ask for it. And when the outside world sees this, they may recommend us to other addicts.

-Anonymous submission by a few heroin addicts in Phoenix, AZ.

*If you would like your meeting featured in our meeting spotlight, or have any other content you would like to submit, please feel free to contact us at the email listed. Thank you!*

*Heroin Anonymous World Services Board*

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