



HEROIN ANONYMOUS WORLD BULLETIN

JULY 2015

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Freedom from Suffering" Group – Bohemia, NY

The "Freedom from Suffering" group of Heroin Anonymous started in Bohemia, New York in 2012. Plenty of skeptics said, "Why do we need another fellowship? Why separate when we are all inclusive? There is no need for anything else! They have no idea what they are doing!" It

was true: we had no idea what we were doing! What we saw was a wholesale miracle. The value one suffering heroin addict identifying with another one

who had had a spiritual experience was incomparable. We have seen a movement from God. H.A. grew from six recovered junkies planning a brand new H.A. meeting, to three meetings a week with a weekly attendance of over 100. It spawned another

group, along with a plethora of H&I commitments all over Long Island. We truly saw a fellowship grow up among us.

We saw those same people who seemed hopeless, desperate, weak, and broken, brimming with a light about them where there was

once darkness.

That great promise that "God did for us what we could not do for ourselves" has been our experience. In an almost prophetic way, we saw the group's name "Freedom from

Suffering" come to life. We've seen more than a release; we've seen real freedom from addiction! Not only from drugs but from *self*, available to all through a conscious contact with a God of our own understanding, by way of the 12 Steps. We have seen the same people who

doubted us at the start sitting in our meetings, when they saw that people were recovering and staying sober. Although we still have no idea what we are doing, we are growing in number of attendees and meetings. We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

We thank God for the support of H.A. World Services and the fellowship as a whole. What started in Phoenix, Arizona is changing lives and communities all over the world. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! If you are in the Long Island area, please visit one of our meetings listed on the H.A. World Services web site!

Adam J. of H.A. in Bohemia, NY

If you would like your meeting featured in the bulletin, or would like to submit any other content, contact the H.A. bulletin committee at:

haworldbulletin@gmail.com

Contact HAWS Bulletin:

All correspondence will be filtered by our HA bulletin committee by emailing: haworldbulletin@gmail.com.

We can also be contacted through our web site at: www.heroinanonymous.org.

HEROIN ANONYMOUS AND THE PRESS

As the growing epidemic of heroin addiction sweeps across the world, H.A. has been confronted with the attention of public media seeking answers about this seemingly hopeless, misunderstood sickness. HAWS has prepared a "[Letter to the Press](#)" to educate the media and H.A. members alike about the importance of the 11th tradition which states, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal

anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

A small amount of humility—the willingness to be one member in a fellowship, rather than pridefully speaking as the "face of H.A."—can prevent a public relations controversy, which could result in thousands of addicts being denied a solution. To be seen by our principles and known by our solution, rather than by the voice of sole persons, protects the future of H.A. Therefore, HAWS suggests groups

utilize the "[Letter to the Press](#)" when contacted by media outlets and encourage members to become familiar with the document, if they wish, which is available on the [H.A. website](#). When identified publicly, members are requested to use their first name and last initial only and not show the face of any member when photographed or filmed. If you have any questions regarding dealing with the media in your area, feel free to contact HAWS.

THE 3RD TRADITION OF H.A.

The only requirement for H.A membership is a desire to stop suffering from heroin addiction.

Bill W. starts off the 12 and 12 chapter on Tradition Three with "This tradition is packed with meaning." That is as true today as it was when it was written, and still has the same meaning today as it did then. Today, as well as then, it means I have no right whatsoever to exclude anybody from anything in the rooms of 12-step recovery. I have no say whatever in whether a person is or isn't an addict; whether a person does or does not get to share; whether a person can or cannot come to a meeting. Everybody is a member when they say they have the desire to stop suffering from heroin addiction. I have no right to deny anybody the ability to receive the gift of recovery.

So, if I effectively practice Tradition Three in my life today, that means everybody has the right to be who they are, be a part of what they want, and live how they want to live. The only thing I can do is practice patience, tolerance, kindness, and love, no matter what. I know that sounds awfully similar to perfection. I know none of us are perfect. What I am really saying is that recovery does not happen when people are worried whether they belong or not. The fact is, we all belong when we say we belong, and nobody can take that from us.

Rachel R. of H.A. in Encinitas, CA

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