



# HEROIN ANONYMOUS WORLD BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2015

*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

"Be the Change" Group – Washington, NJ

Our first meeting was a men's speaker meeting at 7:30 PM on October 2nd, 2015. There were eight men in attendance (six of whom became home-group members). After about a month, between public demand and the group's desire to help as many suffering heroin addicts as possible, we opened the meeting to all heroin addicts, regardless of gender, and at our last meeting (held on December 25th) there were eighteen people (roughly 2/3 men, and 1/3 women) in attendance. The home-group has grown to sixteen people! We use the "Speaker Meeting" meeting format

which was available from the HAWWS website, and currently have the following service positions filled: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Coffee maker. Being a relatively new group, we're not yet doing any H&I work, events or fundraisers. We're still solely focused on trying to show the hopeless junkie that there is a solution, and a better way to live. One day, though, we hope to participate in all those things.

We've had several impromptu "group business meetings", but are having our first official business meeting on January 8th after the regular meeting. We

plan to discuss the following topics: possible group name change, possible meeting format change (finding speakers can be difficult for such a small fellowship), possible service position changes, and we will begin discussing a "Group Policy" on topics such as clean-time requirements for service positions, length of service position commitment times, etc.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to write about our new group.

-Robert P, an HA member in Washington, NJ

Contact HAWWS Bulletin:

All correspondence will be filtered by our HA bulletin committee at: [haworldbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:haworldbulletin@gmail.com).

We can also be contacted through our web site at: [www.heroinanonymous.org](http://www.heroinanonymous.org).

## LITERATURE VETTING PROCESS

In the spirit of tradition one, HAWS is currently developing the formal structure of a proposed "Literature Vetting Process." Although the guidelines are still in their construction and editing stages, the "moral of the story" is an important concept.

The guidelines encourage members to submit drafted literature to the HAWS board and/or the World Conference to begin the consensus process. Vetting by definition means to "make a careful and critical examination of something." An individual or group submits the rough draft of their work which is then actively pushed through the structures' process of approval. The goal of this process is to create HA materials which express the voice of the fellowship, carry the message to the suffering heroin addict, and aid in the understanding and

application of the twelve steps of HA.

Creating a consensus regarding the branding of HA's name on literature to be distributed to the corners of the globe is a long journey. Still ensuring that our literature reflects the same spiritual principles which align with those we practice in our personal recovery preserves the welfare of our fellowship. Failure to do so may deter some from seeking what we have and that may mean to die. Therefore, "Our common welfare must come first, personal recovery depends on HA unity."

If you have questions regarding publishing, literature or HAWS contact the bulletin.

- HAWS

## HAWS BULLETIN NAME CHANGE FINALISTS!

We've received a number of great name ideas for the bulletin, and it's now time for a final vote!

The finalists, in no particular order, are:

- The Mainline
- Tar Talk
- The Rinse
- The HArtbeat
- The Dose

Unfortunately, the bulletin can only have one name, so please follow [this link](#)\*, and vote for the name you think we should call our bulletin from now until the end of time.

Thank you in advance for your input!

\*<http://goo.gl/forms/BpdqQbErXx>

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## THE 9<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION OF H.A.

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*HA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve*

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It truly is a gift to participate in and contribute to the growth of the Fellowship of Heroin Anonymous. The Twelve Traditions, when first written in 1946, were titled "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future." In equal measure, we of HA are blessed with the privilege of witnessing these Traditions at work in our respective groups, as well as entrusted with the responsibility of adhering to them. In AA's 12 Steps and Twelve Traditions, Bill W. writes, "Unless each member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant." This is not a punishment or a penalty administered by people in authority or a committee. It is a result of his "personal disobedience to spiritual principles." "The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to the Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die... Great suffering and great love are AA's disciplinarians; we need no others." In HA we do not need organization (in the usual sense of the word) to govern our members. However, we do need to elect and authorize HA members to work toward the future as our Fellowship grows. We need our World Services to continue to provide our literature, key tags, and work toward the establishment of a conference. We need to form committees to work toward carrying the message inside treatment centers, jails, detoxes and halfway houses. We need service groups to organize our local HA hotlines and Public Information committees, letting the community know who we are what we do and don't do. The point is to ensure that the child being born today, destined for heroin addiction, will find in the rooms of HA and the same rebirth that we have found. Heroin Anonymous is "a society without organization, animated only by the Spirit of Service – a true fellowship."

- Jason H, an HA Member in DuPage County, Illinois

*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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