



THE MAINLINE

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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.

AREA SPOTLIGHT

St. Louis, MO

Walking into an H.A. meeting located on the south side of St. Louis every Friday night leaves a warmth inside my heart. This meeting is like a second home to me now. It is a place I can go and see people I've known for years and people I have never seen before. Most of us are here for one reason, to get down to the solution of our thinking problem.

Heroin Anonymous started here in Saint Louis, Missouri five years ago. While I wasn't sober at the time of the startup, I had managed to drag myself in and out of this meeting for the first year of it. Here, I saw a few people that seemed to have the same exact problems as me gather at this treatment center every Friday night

and talk about the Twelve Steps, whatever those were. Eventually, the pain got great enough for me and I managed to muster up the courage to get a sponsor and get to work on the steps. Four years later I have had the privilege to not only get and stay sober through the help of H.A., but I get to watch this program blossom into what it is today.

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Like anything else in the making, we have run into some problems along the way. Mostly, we struggle with having enough sober people to commit to service work positions. It tends to be the

same people cycled through every few months who chair the meeting, hold onto the money and take meetings into hospitals and institutions. Hopefully, this will be something that will gradually change as more people come in and stay sober; we

all know how challenging that can be.

We have made tremendous leaps and bounds in five years. We

started with one meeting every week on Friday nights. Now we have five meetings a week; one of which is a women's meeting and one of which is an H&I meeting. So, we are continuing to

grow but there is always room for improvement.

One of our aspirations is to be recognized at a district and area level. Most of us just don't know where to begin. Getting everyone to agree on things here seems to be a challenge and

getting people to commit is even more of a challenge.

Heroin Anonymous, for us, has been a way out of our suffering. Bottom line, it offers a place for newcomers to come and relate, and get some solution. People continue to come back and

meeting attendance is the strongest it ever has been.

We continue to grow as a group, and as people, every year. I am truly grateful that I was introduced to this program that saved my life.

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Willingness is Key" Group – Parkersburg, WV

"God is doing for me what I could not do for myself." People thank me for bringing this meeting to them, but it wasn't me at all, it was a Higher Power working through others and myself. I couldn't even stop myself from destroying my own life let alone do anything for anyone else. The "light" of recovery shined brightly to me through friends I had known in my addiction who were now trudging the road of happy destiny. They were freed through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous thus attracting me and giving me hope.

A good friend whom I looked up to in the program

of Alcoholics Anonymous and I were having a conversation and he said to me, "I met some guys from Heroin Anonymous at Founders day, and did you know they study from the Big Book?" I said, "Wow, I did not know that, but I love Alcoholics Anonymous and my home group. I have no reason to leave." My friend then said, "It's not just your recovery, but other's as well". Wow! And just like God had lifted the insane obsession from me, he spoke

through my friend and struck my heart again.

I had to find out how to do this, so I traveled to Northern Ohio to some Heroin Anonymous meetings and met some friends who gave me some guidance and they said, "As long as

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your group has the best interest of the whole in heart and a solid spiritual connection, you will do good things." There was no shortage

in demand for the need of Heroin Anonymous here (West Virginia has the highest overdose death rate per

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capita in the United States). With the guidance of others and the Traditions we contacted World Services to get us "into action". Where our lives depended upon thoroughness and honesty, our group has seen the importance of Heroin Anonymous, with being able to identify and carry the

message with depth and weight. Our meeting studies the disease of mind, body, and soul and shares its solution, and our experience strength and hope with each other. Though the Traditions are heavily leaned upon at Willingness is Key, we do the things that bring us closest to our Higher Power and

encourage others to do likewise. If you ever get the opportunity to visit the Willingness is Key group of Heroin Anonymous you are going to see a fellowship of people who are taking another kind of flight, a spiritual liberation from this world: people who are rising above their problems.

MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Blacked Out" Group – Las Vegas, NV

The Blacked Out meeting of Heroin Anonymous started in the Fall of 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is held at 7:00pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Serenity Club in Las Vegas. The meeting format on Thursday and Friday are open participation, in which a person picks a reading from the literature and then we share on the topic. On Saturday, the format of the meeting is a twenty-five-minute speaker followed by open participation.

When the meeting started there was a swarm of attendance and participation, but about six months later it died down, and attendance became inconsistent. Even with the decline in attendance, there was a few of us who were determined to keep the door open. Meeting attendance went up and down with in the following two years. Around November 2014 people started to come back in the door and meeting attendance went through the roof to about 70 people in attendance all three nights of the week. It has been amazing being part of a growing meeting in a valley that is in the midst of a heroin epidemic. Throughout the years since the meeting has started, we as a group have experienced tragedy, laughed, cried and argued as a group, but we stayed and made it a fellowship we crave. It has been a beautiful experience watching a meeting become a home group, giving people in Las Vegas hope. Our biggest reward since the beginning of Blacked Out happened this year when we celebrated ten one-year birthdays from our members.

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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