



THE MAINLINE

SEPTEMBER 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

"Outright Mental Defectives" Group – West Palm Beach, FL

Our meeting, "Outright Mental Defectives", is held in West Palm Beach on Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm. This was the first H.A. meeting to take hold in South Florida, beginning about 2 years ago. As a result of starting this meeting and growing interest in H.A., 2 other H.A. meetings have sprung up in this area. Typically, we have a speaker share for 20-30 minutes followed by open discussion. Because Florida is an epicenter for recovery, it is the perfect place for the fellowship of H.A. to flourish, even though many people had never heard of H.A. before our meeting. It has a regular attendance of 50-60 people. Especially obvious in our home group members, we have had the privilege to watch hopeless addicts transform into strong, productive people who work amazing programs of recovery.

-Jenna D, an H.A. Member in West Palm Beach, FL

A MESSAGE FROM HAWWS

The HAWWS board is seeking applicants for the Conference Chair position to organize the first World Service Conference of Heroin Anonymous. This position is a significant contribution to the fellowship and is expected to be an intense process by the way of responsibilities and duties. Interested parties are encouraged to send their resume to HAWWS by September 30th, 2016.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE

Hello, all. My name is Adam L. and I am a heroin addict. I was born in raised in the suburbs of Youngstown, Ohio. My sobriety date is 6/13/13 and the first H.A. meeting I attended was "Up

With Hope Down With Dope" every Thursday night at 7:45 p.m. I made that meeting my home group, and it is still my home group today.

My sponsor "suggested" I get active after attending

for a couple weeks so I volunteered to make coffee. That was my first experience doing service work. I can see today that making coffee for the meeting may have very well kept me sober for the six

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months I was assigned to that position. That was the only H.A. meeting in the area at the time.

Over the next couple years, other meetings started to sprout from that single one. Today, we have six outside meetings in our area. Sometime in the middle of 2015, a small group of my anonymous friends and I pondered the idea of a Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) meeting. We got together, following the H&I guidelines World Services provided for us, and were each voted into a different service position. We met up the following month and we discovered a lot of facilities were skeptical since we were a relatively new fellowship. A new treatment center was just opening their doors at that time. I was going there to visit a patient and ended up discussing H&I with its clinical director. He was more than happy to have us, and asked when we wanted to start.

I printed out all the readings and meeting formats, and called upon a few other willing addicts for

help. We showed up at the treatment center a week later armed with the message of Heroin Anonymous. The Sunday Night "Never Say Die" closed meeting met for the first time in August of 2015. The H&I Committee continues to meet, and now we have four H&I meetings in the area!

I have been the chairperson and an active speaker almost every week since our formation. Speaking in treatment centers and detox facilities is by far my favorite form of service. I have to regularly be reminded of the hopelessness, desperation, and power of my disease. The longer I stay sober, the further I get from that pain. Coming into a detox, I am reminded of that pain and also of the blessing that my sobriety is. I must carry the message to stay sober! What better place is there than in a hospital or treatment facility?

It is also a great platform to find newcomers that want to go through the steps. I sponsor a number of heroin addicts that I met for the first

time at an H&I meeting. Many are now active in H&I and they share how their sobriety started when they were in treatment. They understand, as I do, that having service positions keeps them accountable.

I know from the bitter experiences of others that my sobriety depends on my service to other addicts. There are plenty of days I don't want to chair at H&I or find speakers. I do it regardless, because I know my life depends on it. Though it shouldn't surprise me, every time I leave an H&I meeting, I feel better. Our fellowship is growing, and by sticking to the traditions we continue to carry the message of Heroin Anonymous.

A new detox center opened in our area this month. They called us to bring a meeting in! We showed up the next day. The first H&I meeting in that detox was H.A. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to participate in H&I.

I owe everything good in my life to Heroin Anonymous

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and the Twelve Steps. The work I put forth in H&I and other aspects of my recovery are miniscule compared to what H.A. has given me. I am

free from the suffering of my heroin addiction. I have a purpose for my pain. My purpose is God given. Carry

the message to the still sick and suffering.

-Adam L, an H.A. Member in Youngstown, OH

OUR TWELFTH SUGGESTION

Life had become impossible to live with or without drugs. Learning through my sponsor what it really means to have the disease of addiction led me to understand that my way of life was simply a pattern that was expected to end in the same old situation over and over. I had to live a different life. What I've learned through the literature is that the steps themselves are the principles, spiritual in nature, and when applied to the sufferer's life, they become useful and whole. My experience has shown me one thing, and one thing only: that the first step shows me the truth of my illness and without steps two through twelve I am nothing.

Chapter seven (of the book Alcoholics Anonymous) shows me very clearly how to

approach the newcomer. Through my stories I gain their confidence and secure their trust when we can relate with each other. The common bond of having similar feelings and thoughts, emotions, and crises builds a strong relationship with him or her. To have such an understanding is priceless in a world where one feels alone and misunderstood. It is an honor and a privilege to do such work with a person who seemed doomed to a life of imprisonment by addiction. Through our stories there is a connection no matter what the circumstances. The feelings are always the same.

The steps have given me a new feeling about my life which has allowed me to see it differently. It is my duty to share how I acquired this

new life by freely giving away what has been freely given to me whether it is simply sitting with a newcomer to read the book together or receiving a call at an inconvenient time. Before, one junkie would help another junkie score dope. Now, one junkie helps another junkie live a life that they could only dream of. I was shown that I was to trust a power greater than myself because I lacked the power to stop or to stay stopped no matter how great the wish or the necessity. Now, this trust in a power greater than myself enables me to live life without the need for heroin and that is what I get to share with the newcomer.

-Tori, an H.A. Member 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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