



THE MAINLINE

DECEMBER 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.

A REMINDER FROM THE HAWWS CONVENTION LIAISON

The second Heroin Anonymous World Convention, celebrating 14 years of HA, will be held in August 2018. HAWWS is accepting applications for the 2018 convention. If your area is interested in submitting a bid, please download the application and guidelines from the Convention section of the HAWWS web site. The deadline to submit bids for the convention is February 12th, 2017. Please share the attached flyer with the HA groups in your area to initiate the possibility of hosting HA's second World Convention! If you need any help or have any questions, feel free to contact us at haconvention@gmail.com.

ONE HEROIN ADDICT'S STORY

My name is Morgan and I'm a heroin addict. My sobriety date is March, 13th 2013. I hear a lot of stories where people hit hard bottoms and are homeless, overdosed, in and out of treatment many times, etc. That's just not my story. I use to be very insecure about it like I wasn't a "good enough" heroin addict. But now I know that doesn't matter. What matters is

what happens on the inside, not the outside.

I had my first experience with opiates in high school. It was a complete game changer. For once in my life I felt like I could take a breath. The voices in my head were finally quiet and I was content. Quickly my life took a dark turn. I couldn't get out of bed without a shot of dope. I was a slave to heroin. Life

became a constant fight and no matter what I did heroin always won. I would soon find out I couldn't fight that battle alone.

I did not walk into the rooms of Heroin Anonymous - I crawled. I crawled into this fellowship completely broken. I was 115 pounds, covered in scars and track marks, and absolutely hopeless. I heard these men and women share their

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experience and for the first time in my addiction I saw a flicker of light. After many relapses I decided to surrender everything. Every single day all I could think about was heroin. I struggled through a cold turkey detox, sitting in meetings, wanting to crawl out of my skin. All I wanted to do was get high. I didn't come into the rooms wanting to stop getting high. I came in wanting to stop feeling the way I felt. If I could shoot dope like a gentleman and not experience any consequences I absolutely would.

I started taking action instead of just telling people what I was going to do and telling them what they

wanted to hear. Something amazing happened during my 5th step. I began feeling a connection with a power greater than myself and I felt the obsession to use become lifted. I started fearlessly taking suggestions, including building relationships with women. That was a big step for me because "I get along with guys better and only have guy friends because there's less drama." I've lost many people to this disease. I've buried two best friends in sobriety. I've never felt so much pain before but it's amazing that I can stay sober through the hardest times. The fellowship is what picks me up when life throws me down. Going through the steps got me

sober and continuing to work them and work with other people keeps me sober.

I don't always do this perfectly and that's okay. If I was perfect I wouldn't need to come to these meetings. Life is no longer a struggle for me. I don't have to battle with myself about whether or not I'm going to get high and destroy my life anymore. I don't just exist - I actually participate in life. I'm at peace with the world around me but most importantly I'm at peace with myself and my mind. I don't feel like I'm wrapped in chains anymore. I am finally free.

- Morgan C, an H.A. member in Atlanta, GA.

HAWS BOARD ELECTIONS

The positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and five "at-large" voting board positions are up for reelection in February. Therefore, the HAWS board is accepting service resumes for these positions. We strongly encourage you to take this information to your respective home groups for discussion and seek the group's nomination, before volunteering individually. Although a home group's nomination is not a prerequisite for such a commitment, we suggest this in the spirit of our second tradition. Service resumes for this position are due by January 7th, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact the bulletin committee and they will point you in the right direction.

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MEETING SPOTLIGHT

"Over the Spoon" Group – Indianapolis, IN

Over the Spoon is held in Indianapolis every Tuesday at 8:00pm at Progress House (201 Shelby St, Indianapolis, IN 46202). It was the second HA meeting in the Indianapolis area, starting in 2014 with about 15 members who felt there was a need for more than one HA meeting in the city. The Over the Spoon meeting was, and still is, the most populated and far reaching group in our area, attracting many heroin addicts who are searching for a way out of suffering. This group opened the flood gates for Heroin Anonymous in the Indianapolis area.

At Over the Spoon, we all are a really tight-knit family within the program of HA. We are always welcoming newcomers and trying to

spread the message that there is a solution. We recently had to change our meeting location and that did not stop the morale or willingness of our members to go to any lengths. Our meeting attendance has always reflected the growth and unity of HA Indy. Our meeting attendance numbers are anywhere from 60-100 recovering heroin addicts per meeting. Each week we read a step, or a portion of a step from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, and the last Tuesday of every month is a speaker meeting.

I remember first coming to the old location for my first HA meeting and it blew me away to see all the cars that lined the street and filled the parking lot.

There are no words to describe the feeling I got when I saw so many heroin addicts filling the rooms, finding recovery, and talking about their spiritual awakenings and how they are living their life through this program. The diversity, acceptance, and unconditional love of the meeting draws many heroin addicts to join us on the road to happy destiny. In the end, it is the similarities in our stories and the experience, strength, and hope shared that emanates from this group that will always remain. A loving Higher Power guides us, the "Big Book" teaches us, and our unity binds us to know there is a way, Over the Spoon.

- Sara U, GSR, Over the Spoon, Indianapolis, IN.

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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