



# THE MAINLINE

APRIL 2018

*Greetings,*

*We write you as representatives of Heroin Anonymous World Services (HAWS). This informational bulletin's purpose is to increase communication between the groups of Heroin Anonymous throughout the world.*

## THE FINISH LINE – BANQUET, T-SHIRTS & REG. PRICING

2018 World Convention Update

Ladies & Gents,

We are so close to the convention we can taste it...and boy howdy, it's tasty! Speaking of deliciousness, we are making a final push for Banquet sales. We won't use "scarcity tactics" on you this time; there are an unlimited number of banquet plates that we're able to sell. We're pushing to have the most joyous, raucous, unity jammed banquet the world has ever known. We know you want to be a part of something like this because...Game of Thrones.

Anyhow, other updates:

- The hotel block is officially full, so it's time to find a local PDX tiny-home to Airbnb.
- T Shirts and other merch are days from being ordered and printed. And it looks great! Also, a heads up (here comes the scarcity pitch): There will only be a limited number of shirts so if you have to, *have to*, **HAVE TO** have a shirt...it's probably a good idea to buy one now with your pre-registration! You can easily log back into the registration portal and snag one. If you have any trouble, reach back out [hawcreg18@gmail.com](mailto:hawcreg18@gmail.com) and they can shepherd you.
- And finally, remember how registration was going to increase? Well, we called that off. It was \$35 and it shall remain \$35 forevermore. A procrastinators delight, we know. A special thank-you however to those of you who *did* register early. Without you this convention simply would not have happened. Literally.

That's a wrap! We are looking ever so very much forward to seeing all your pretty faces here in Portland during the one and only week of the year it doesn't rain.

- HAWC18 Committee

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## IN LOVE WITH A LIFE OF PURPOSE, IN PRISON

Personal Story: Gina – Perryville Prison, AZ

My name is Gina, and I am a heroin addict. You would think coming to prison would feel like the end of the world, but for me it is the beginning of a more meaningful life. Coming to Perryville prison in Buckeye, Arizona has saved my life, and I am slowly discovering my purpose. I have been reminded that I am not a prostitute, hopeless junkie, raging alcoholic, or a terrible mom. I am a human and God loves me! Yeah, even me.

So, I could tell a story about how much of a monster I was and the lives I have ruined, or I could tell a story of the miracle that is my life.

The first year of my time in prison, I only received mail from my thirteen-year-old daughter. She was eventually adopted by my family and no longer allowed to contact me. No one would apply for clearance to visit me, I had a job making fifteen cents an hour, and my spirit felt beyond broken. My friends and family had given up on me, and so had I. I made sure the other women around me knew I had nothing to lose. I turned my back on God so that I could not let him down again, and I would not call upon God until I was sure I could make my higher power proud. This sounds like a silly ideal but that is where I stood.

Life began to change as I stayed sober. I got the highest paying job available at Perryville prison in a call center, where I learned about the newest technology and how to be a great conversationalist. Although it was nice to be earning more money, the inspiration and the self-worth that was gradually being restored was priceless. I was smart, funny, kind and generous. Everyday people cheered for me and

helped me study for hours so I could pass the required tests. They bullied me into signing up for an intense twelve step program that another inmate had started years before.

Man, was I scared! I have to dig up all my skeletons and tell you all my secrets! Even more scary was not coming to the twelve-step program every week, because I was even more afraid of my addiction. Initially I thought my sponsor could never understand the life of a prostitute who did drugs during her pregnancy and lived in a dope house with her three kids. I was ashamed, but it was good to feel that guilt... to be able to feel anything, period! Feelings meant that I care I have something to lose. By step five I was back in love with life. I was considerate of others and the stories I tell no longer glorify my drug use. People started to walk up and ask me for help and tell me how proud they are of me. I do not talk the same, think the same, treat people the same and, of course, I do not have the same group of friends.

I continued to write home knowing no one would write back. I have written amends letters, sent cards, and "arts and crafts." Nothing... until this past Christmas! My dad has written me once, and said he forgives me. My mom has written me numerous times and sends me pictures of my children. My aunt has written me twice to tell me she is proud of me and that she misses me making her laugh. To a normal person these are meaningless, but to an addict in a desolate place these are miraculous blessings. For these are reminders that my life is being restored, forgiveness is not one-sided, and change is inevitable. It is up to me, for better or for worse.

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Now, I am sponsoring and I thank God for this privilege. I get to witness the transformative miracles many think are not possible. Here in Perryville prison, miracles happen every day! More and more women believe in the program and are inspired to fight for their lives again. The comradery here is without parallel, and our group of strong women gets larger by the minute. I wish I could name names like the Grammys

because there are so many women who are a part of this movement. Thanks to all the people around the world who share their time and their story; you may never know whose life you are changing.

Gina  
Perryville Prison, ARIZONA.

## OUR “DEADLY SERIOUS GROUP” IS 1 YEAR OLD!

Meeting Spotlight: Crownsville, MD

My name is Linda D. and I'm a recovered heroin addict! In June of 2017, I was feeling STUCK in my recovery program. All of the external gifts we get from staying clean were firmly in place, yet I wasn't content. Why did I still feel so selfish? Why was I paralyzed with fear at times which led to futile attempts to control situations and people? I had been clean for 12 years, had service commitments in another fellowship and sponsored several women. But I still felt a disconnect – that hole in the soul. I started praying for God to show me a solution, to guide me and mold me into a better person. Lo and Behold – my boyfriend discovered HA on the Internet and I knew God had answered my prayers. The concept of a 12-step fellowship for heroin/opiate addicts that exclusively avails itself of AA literature was mind blowing to me.

The Deadly Serious Group was born. Other heroin and opiate addicts were moved and excited about the HA singleness of purpose and use of AA literature. Our meeting took off like a rocket, and attendance has been steady since July of

last year. We average anywhere from 10 to 25 people each week. Our members are faithful about spreading the HA word whenever they share in jails, institutions or treatment centers. When new people come to our meeting fresh out of treatment, they bring that desperation we can all identify with and our meeting gives them the hope they need to keep coming back!

Our format is simple but powerful. The first week of every month, we celebrate anniversary milestones from the previous month. The celebrant(s) share for about 10 to 15 minutes each and we then open it up for the group to share. The second, third and fourth week of each month, we read the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (first 164 pages). Volunteers read and when the mood strikes, anyone can share on what we're reading and there's no limit to how many times an individual can share during the meeting. We never have to worry about uncomfortable silences! The fifth week of the month (several times a year), we listen to an AA speaker on You Tube (usually about 30

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minutes in duration) and then open it up to the group. Dynamite!

Heroin Anonymous and The Deadly Serious Group was an answer to my prayers. I asked God for direction and he sent HA! Words can't adequately describe how reading the Big Book in an atmosphere with other recovering heroin and opiate addicts

has deepened and broadened my program and relationship with God. I am eternally grateful to the founders of HA and thank my God for bringing me to the light.

Linda D.  
Deadly Serious Group  
Crownsville, MD

*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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