



THE MAINLINE

SEPTEMBER 2018

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.

GOLLY...IT REALLY HAPPENED!

2018 World Convention RECAP

On behalf of Portland Oregon I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who participated in the 2018 Heroin Anonymous World Convention.

It was early 2017 and I remember us putting in the bid for the 2018 world convention to be in Portland...and for some reason I did not have any fear about it whatsoever. Portland, OR has such a powerful HA fellowship. It has been super instrumental in my life and it has brought so much healing to my community. I felt an obligation to help create an opportunity for everyone in HA, from all over the country, to come here and experience what was happening in our backyard.

So, we submit a bid...And then we won!

Portland Oregon was awarded the bid for the 2018 World Convention!

I announced it at our Area meeting and everyone stood up and cheered. We printed out the "Wrap It Up Report" from the

1st HA World Convention in Arizona in 2014, and we immediately went to work without ANY idea of what we were doing. We found a hotel, we rallied for service positions, we held multiple fundraisers, we encouraged each other and slowly but surely a World Convention started to take shape.

One of the most powerful experiences I personally had in the planning of the convention was right after we announced that we were taking in speaker tape applications. Immediately we started to receive speaker tapes from all over the country. We sent them out to the speaker committee and began listening to all sorts of amazing speaker tapes from HA fellowships all across the United States. I would listen to them in my car, while walking to work (and at work...shhh) and every single one of them spoke to me. Every single one of them blew me away and made me feel so blessed and so lucky to be able to be of service to this amazing fellowship called Heroin Anonymous.

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Up until the last three weeks before the convention we had a lot of questions about whether we were going to really pull the convention off. Miraculously everything fell into place. Well, things falling into place wasn't a miracle, we certainly planned the heck outta it...the real miracle was how we were able to get 10 junkies in a room together twice a month and actually make a plan that didn't involve hustling someone for cash for dope ;-)

About 400 people attended the Friday and Saturday night speaker meetings, the workshops were powerful and amazing, and we ended up raising over \$10,000. This covered all the costs for the convention and allowed us to create a large chunk of seed money for the 2020 HA World Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Mostly importantly, however, were able to bring people from HA from all over the

country together, we were able to kick it with our predecessors, and for our Portland fellowship, we were able to spend a whole week living in the 12th Step.

That's 168 hours of giving back what was so freely given to us. So exhausting. So worth it.

Once again, on behalf of HA Portland –

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other heroin addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Thank you for letting us be of service.

Paul F.
Chairperson
2018 HA World Convention

FINALLY, AN UPSIDE-DOWN PYRAMID

2018 World Conference RECAP

In addition to HA's 2nd World Convention gracing the history books, Portland, OR also hosted HA's first *World Conference* the week leading up to the convention. It was truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of such a momentous event.

There was a lot of speculation going into the Conference from everyone involved. Were expectations too high or too low? Would it be poorly attended? Could area GSRs from the other side of the country afford to come? Were we putting too much of a burden on the fellowship? Would we look as

incompetent as we felt (lol)? We had some guidance, but we really didn't know what we were doing because we had never done it before.

Before I get to how the Conference turned out, I'd like to take a moment and give my appreciation and respect to all involved in planning the Conference. This was close to two years in the making, with countless emails, questions, meetings, phone calls, referrals, failures, successes, breakdowns and breakthroughs. No one person could've pulled it off alone. It definitely took a crew,

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however “motley” and “skeleton” it was. And in the end, it was one of the best service experiences I've ever had the pleasure of being a part of.

So, how'd it go?

The consensus from all involved was that the Conference was a huge success in all the areas we hoped it would be. GSRs did travel from all over the country, bringing with them the precious votes of their respective Areas. They participated with courage and conviction and were passionate about what they brought to the table. But at the same time, everyone was able to communicate their convictions with a calm sincerity leading to an honest and open discussion about their concerns for HA. Even when discussing topics such as “singleness of purpose” everyone involved was willing to set aside their opinions and listen with an open mind to all the information being shared. These representatives are now, some at this very moment, bringing these discussion points back up at their Areas where they can make an informed decision.

I was taken aback and overwhelmed with the level of unity and humility from the participants and their love and appreciation for HA.

Now that the first Conference has ended, what does this actually mean for our precious fellowship?

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

Well, for the first time since HA's inception we will finally have a truly informed, member-based group conscience. We are making decisions from the grass roots upwards, instead of the old top down dictation of the early years. Decisions will no longer fall on the shoulders of the Heroin Anonymous World Board but instead be the responsibility of HA as a whole. There is now a structure where the voices of each and every member can be heard and can flow upwards, gathering steam and votes, the lucky ones being granted the coveted status of “Heroin Anonymous Conference Approved”.

I think it was in 1951 when AA had their first General Service World Conference. During this momentous event Bill W. presented the 12 traditions to AA thereby turning AA and its governance over to the groups and their members. That's what the recent HA conference felt like. Being a part of that was truly an honor. Have I mentioned that yet?

HA is finally able to turn the pyramid upside down ensuring integrity and sustainability for years to come.

Sharmyn T.
Chairperson
HA World Conference

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