



THE MAINLINE

JANUARY 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

CONFERENCE DATES & LOCATION CONFIRMED

World Conference Update

Greetings dearest fellowship!

We are pleased to announce that the dates and location for the 2019 Heroin Anonymous World Conference has been confirmed! We encourage any and all interested members to attend, regardless of position. This is not just an event for GSRs and Delegates. This is where topics are vetted through a group conscience, voted on and given the seal "Heroin Anonymous Conference Approved".

Perhaps not an action-packed experience, per se, but it sure is exciting to be present during the making of history! At least *this* humble servant thinks so ;-)

So, the deets:

HAWC 2019

July 10th - 12th

Tempe Mission Palms

60 E. 5th St.

Tempe, AZ 85281

The link for hotel and registration coming soon, but the prices are as follows:

- Registration is \$35 before June 10th, 2019
- After this date, registration will be \$45
- Hotel rooms are \$89 per night

Contact HAWWS Bulletin:

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This conference precedes the AZ Area Convention being held July 12-14 at same location. So, if you're on the fence about attending the Conference, perhaps visions of salt-water-pool-partying and midnight courtyard conversations following an amazing speaker will help tilt the balance.

Hope to see all of you there! And as always, any questions or comments can be directed to hawsconferencechair@gmail.com .

Blessings,

Sharmyn
Conference Chair

A PROGRESSIVE ILLNESS

Personal Story: Michelle U – Goodyear, AZ

My name is Michelle and I am a heroin addict from Phoenix, Arizona. As a child, I never thought this would be the way I would introduce myself when I grew up. I also never imagined I would find peace and serenity uttering those words.

My story is a perfect example of how addiction is a progressive illness. I started with alcohol, then weed. After the weed lost its excitement I graduated to coke and pills. When I found prescription pain pills, I thought I had found everything a broken teenager could ever ask for to numb out all my pain and minimize the severity of life's circumstances. I maintained with pills for quite a while, but the nature of my disease is progressive, so it impeded my life more and more. More and more often it convinced me to do things I would never do with a sane mind, all the while adding to layers of shame and guilt I would have to uncover later. Before I knew it, I had a 10-month-old beautiful baby girl, a progressive illness, a

failing marriage, and was a victim of sexual assault by a family friend. At this stage of my addiction, I definitely did not possess the mental capacity to deal with life on life's terms. My mom took my daughter and when I failed to "gain my bearings back". A month later, she was given to her father who raises her today. Looking back on it now, I went through a complete mental breakdown during this time. I gave up on my baby; that one thing my jaded heart loved in this entire painful world. Now I had nothing left to lose. My progressive illness told me there was no hope and I deserved everything that was happening.

I soon reconnected with a childhood friend who quickly became my boyfriend. He introduced me to meth and intravenous drug use in the same week. At this point, my love and memory of my daughter was being quickly swallowed up by my progressive illness. I tried meth to quit the pills, then pills to quit the meth. I tried various ratios and

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formulas determined to control that which was out of my control. I found my answer in the strongest drug, the one people really warn you against, and the new love of my life...heroin. Heroin did not offer me sanity, just less reality. At this stage of my illness I was tired and losing the will to live.

A few years back I had been convicted of an armed robbery. I was well on my way to violating my probation for a second time and I was angry. I was angry at God for not letting me die because those were the most sincere and meaningful prayers I had, and they consistently went unanswered. At this point I had overdosed three times and kept waking up. I hated myself and all my progressive illness created me to be.

I had a moment of clarity when I was finally arrested again and revoked my probation to serve out my five-year prison sentence at Perryville prison in Goodyear, AZ. I had finally done something to protect myself from myself, my first act of self-love. My fear of remaining the same finally outgrew my fear of change.

I found sanctuary in the rooms of recovery and H&I meetings within these prison walls and I kept coming back. I let these women love me until I could love myself and many of them will never even know the impact they made in my life and the gratitude I hold in my heart for them. I got a sponsor and worked my 12-steps. I'm now on my third set through the steps. As a living amends to myself and a continuous working of my Step 12 I took over as the facilitator for a 12-step recovery-based class called "A Way Out." I

have had the privilege of being a part of the recovery process taking place in hundreds of women and counting. I can't imagine my life any other way. It took coming to prison to be set free and today my progressive illness does not hold light to my progressive recovery.

By the grace of God, restoration is continually taking place in my life today. I have a beautiful relationship with my nine-year-old daughter who I get to resume custody with upon my release in one year's time.

The best way I can express the love, gratitude, and appreciation I have to this program and my higher power is to consistently show up for others and carry this message to the addict who still suffers. Today I have a message of hope, love, and light. I lead by example, sponsor several wonderful women, and am rapidly approaching three years of sobriety. Today I step out in faith and follow my higher power's guidance and will for my life. I love without holding back and my prayers are full of life and gratitude.

Today, my past does not define my future, but it does uniquely qualify me to help those stuck in a progressive illness that want to find a better way of life in Heroin Anonymous.

Michelle U.
Perryville Prison
Goodyear, Arizona

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HAWS ADVISOR POSITION STILL OPEN

World Services Update

Hello again!

This is a reminder that the Advisor position on the HAWS board is still accepting resumes. We are seeking an individual interested in finishing the term which will end in February of 2021.

Positions requirements and responsibilities and are as follows:

- Responsible for making sure the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts are practices in all Board business.
- Offer guidance to the Board in matters concerning the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts that may affect Heroin Anonymous as a whole.
- Address matters inside and outside the fellowship of H.A. that can affect the continuation and growth of Heroin Anonymous.
- It is also very important to follow email threads and correspondence between the board members in between mtgs.
- Must be able to attend monthly meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month (in person or via video conference is strongly suggested)
- Attendance is incredibly important the advisors carry a vote and every vote is important

If you or interested in this commitment, please email hawssecretary@gmail.com with your sobriety resume.

In service,
The Mainline Folks

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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