



# THE MAINLINE

MAY 2019

*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.*

## REPRESENT YOUR AREA @ THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE

2019 World Conference Update

The 2019 Heroin Anonymous World Conference is right around the corner:

**July 10th - 12th**

**Tempe Mission Palms Hotel**

**60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281**

This is the 2nd ever H.A. World Conference, so come be a part of history. For those that don't know, the World Conference is the business meeting of H.A. World Services. This event is open to all Heroin Anonymous members. You can register at:

<http://heroinanonymous.org/conference>

If your state or area is not represented, or you want more information about this event, please email the Conference Chair: [HAWsconferencechair@gmail.com](mailto:HAWsconferencechair@gmail.com)

## HELP US CELEBRATE

Heroin Anonymous Turns 15

August 12th, 2019 is the 15-year anniversary of Heroin Anonymous. Help us commemorate this event by creating a design to embody this milestone. All entries have to be original artwork and can have no affiliation with any other entity. If you incorporate the logo, only the official logo is acceptable. Please send all submissions to [haworldbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:haworldbulletin@gmail.com) by July 9th, 2019, and the winner will be picked by the 2019 World Conference of Heroin Anonymous.

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## HELP US CELEBRATE

Interview with Paul F., Co-founder of Heroin Anonymous

In 2017 Terry M. and Steve A. sat down with one of heroin anonymous' co-founders Paul F. Paul had fallen ill, and these two members thought it would be wise to interview Paul about the early days of HA.

The transcript of this interview is too long to post in its entirety, but we felt it was important to share at least some of it with the members of HA around the world.

Heroin Anonymous' founding date is August 12, 2004, so this year marks our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This snippet of the interview sheds light on how that came to be:

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**Terry M.** - Yeah, so we're here to get to hear your take, because y'know something happened in your life and how does it feel for you just like to start things off to have been chosen by the universe or the creator or however it happened to to co-found HA?

**Paul F.** - I didn't have a clue that it would transform into what Heroin Anonymous is currently. I had no expectation that it would grow in the way that it has and to watch it expand as much as it has. It just exploded. In the Phoenix area, at the time I was sponsoring a guy named Mike S. And what we had in common is we were both heroin addicts. And alcoholics.

He called me one day and he asked, "Hey how come there's no heroin anonymous? There's alcoholics anonymous, cocaine

anonymous, narcotics anonymous...how come there's no place for us heroin addicts to go to?"

The story I kept hearing from guys I was sponsoring who were heroin addicts was I'm willing to go to CA I'm willing to go to AA meetings because it gives me a foundation in the steps but I don't relate to those people. I don't connect. There's no relatedness for me. And there are people in HA now, that's all they do. In heroin anonymous meetings and you will hear them say repeatedly that they found their home in HA, that you people here in HA are my people. I relate to you. You understand me you understand the struggle I went through to try to stop using heroin.

I personally have a love/hate relationship with heroin. I loved the way it made me feel. I hated what it made me do. Y'know? The thievery, the dishonesty, the deception, y'know stealing from my mother. Taking prized possessions from her just so I could put that needle in my arm one more time.

So, when Mike asked me how come there's no heroin anonymous and it struck a curiosity cord with me that's when I responded with I don't know how come there isn't? Why don't we get together and talk about that. So we got together, we started talkin' about it, I asked him do you know of any heroin addicts? He said I sure do. He said do you know of any I said I sure do. I know quite a few heroin addicts who

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are sober in AA just like me but because it wasn't there. I didn't- know the availability- ' know? It wasn't present for me.

So, we sat down and uh with our yellow pads and started takin' notes about well if were gonna start this fellowship how we gonna do it? What should we do? He said well can you make a- cuz I had a computer- he said can you make a flyer? Y'know and in my experience with events in the recovery community is you make a flier and you don't put it out any sooner or any later than 4-6 weeks. You put it out any later and people forget about it you put it out any earlier and people don't remember.

So, I made these fliers and uh gave them a bunch of em, and I always carried those fliers in my car. So every single meeting I went to I was respectful of the traditions so I never mentioned it during the meetings, I would wait 'til after the meeting, and I would go up to people and I would ask them, "do you know any heroin addicts?", "well I sure do!", "well here we're gonna have this meeting down at the Hope House." which would've been August 12<sup>th</sup>. Let me refresh my memory what does the timeline say?

**Steve A.** - August 12<sup>th</sup> first meeting

**Paul F.** - What year?

**Steve A.** - 2004

**Paul F.** - Right. Okay so um so that's what we did. We just saturated the valley with these fliers. Y'know I'm passing them out on a daily basis. So, August 12 came around and we had our meetings and um it was a pretty – it was an animated meeting. Very animated.

And that I had some personal agenda. And that is I wanted a place for us heroin addicts to come to and I didn't want to see heroin anon get watered down so – and this is before I contacted AA world services to get the permission – but I came up with this idea to have the third traditon read differently than it does in AA. Because I think what happens is in alcoholics anon is when they went from the long form to the short form they took a big hit. Because there's a big difference between suffering from alcoholism and having a desire to stop drinking. And I didn't want to see that happen.

So, I was steadfast from my position I would not budge people called me um resistant and I said "yes I am". You sound like you're stuck and I said "yes I am". No I wanted to say "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop suffering from heroin addiction". It was quite different then saying "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using heroin". Cuz what if you have a desire to stop using but you don't have the experience of being a suffering heroin addict. Are you gonna be able to understand what the suffering heroin addict is going through and what they need?

And a couple people jumped on board with me and were in agreement um so then the questions was asked in that meeting- and if you look on the timeline it identifies who was there.

**Steve A** - Seven of you.

**Paul F.** - Seven people showed up for that meeting. Um so the subject of how are we

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*going to reach people. Do we get a phone line or do we get a website? And the consensus was of course being brought up with the traditions I felt it was important that everything be conducted with group conscience. This way no one person is in control. No one person is dominating the direction. Even when I didn't agree with things and I was outvoted I went along with it because of the group conscience. That's how much I believed in that.*

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And as they say, the rest is history.

15 years ago, seven heroin addicts figured out how to be ambitious, strong-willed, AND democratic. There were immediate disagreements, even during the founding meeting, but the spirit of group conscience prevailed.

## LET'S GO CAMPING!

### New York Area Annual Campout

The New York area of Heroin Anonymous presents its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Empire State Campout from August 15-18, 2019 in Geneseo, NY. You can register and get more info at:

[www.heroinanonymous585.org/camp-out](http://www.heroinanonymous585.org/camp-out)

#### **This year's festivities include:**

- Hiking
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Huge Bonfires
- Speakers from around the United States
- And of course, S'mores

The spirit of "how do we best serve the suffering heroin addict" provided fertile ground for the amazing fellowship we are lucky enough to enjoy today.

We are still human, and we will no doubt continue to disagree on all sorts of stuff.

No matter how far down the (argument) we have gone, we (must remember) how our experience can benefit others.

With our 5<sup>th</sup> tradition as our guiding star, we will continue to rise to the challenge of growing a 12-step fellowship for the benefit of the newcomer who still suffers.

Thank you Terry and Steve.

- The Mainline Folks

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## ROCKETED INTO THE 4<sup>TH</sup> “CONVENTION”

Arizona Area 4<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention

The Arizona area of Heroin Anonymous presents its 4<sup>th</sup> annual state convention July 12-14, 2019 at The Tempe Mission Palms in Tempe, AZ. You can register for this event at [www.haazarea.org](http://www.haazarea.org)

### **This year's festivities include:**

- Big pool party on the roof of the hotel
- Out of town speakers Friday and Saturday
- Workshops
- Marathon meetings
- Meditation meetings
- Events and games planned all weekend long
- Amazing historic hotel with beautiful courtyard
- Next door to Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe
- All around good times

*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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