



THE MAINLINE

SEPTEMBER 2019

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.

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE WORLD CONVENTION

HA World Convention Update (August 28-30, 2020 in Atlanta, GA)

The World Convention Is Coming!

Coming in 2020 is an HA extravaganza you won't want to miss! In the beautiful city known for peach trees and sweet teas, Atlanta is honored to host the 3rd EVER HA World Convention! HA groups from all around the world will be coming together to celebrate this amazing fellowship and what it's done for our lives! Hope you're fueled up, because it's going to be a blast! Come out so we may treat you with our sweet southern hospitality and join us in our theme of cleaning up the dirty south!

Pre-register now to save a few bucks! The link is here:

<https://heroinanonymous.regfox.com/heroin-anonymous-world-service-convention>

Whether you're an ATLieN or not, we need all the help we can get, so feel free to reach out if you'd like to be involved! We are also hosting a series of monthly fundraising events, through which you're guaranteed to experience fun and fellowship! We welcome any ideas for panels, fun, and entertainment.

We are also still looking for speakers. If you would like to recommend a friend or submit a tape yourself, please contact us. You may send any ideas or questions to convention@georgiaha.org

We look forward to seeing you!

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WORLD BOARD POSITION OPENING

HA World Service Office Board Update

Attention all members of Heroin Anonymous! This is not a test; this is not a drill. The World Service Office Board or better known as the W Sob's would like to let you know about a position that has recently opened in our office. We are currently looking for an at-large voting member. What is an at-large voting member you may be asking yourself? Well, let me explain. Here at the W.S.O.B. it is very important that we have a proper group conscience to make the day-to-day decisions that just can't wait until the conference. In order to do this effectively, we need to make sure we have a large enough body of members to give us several different opinions on topics that are being discussed. So, what this position entails looks something like this:

1. Available for all W.S.O.B. monthly meetings (2nd Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM AZ time) either in person, on video chat, or through a conference call.
2. Have a working knowledge of the 12 traditions and 12 concepts to ensure that we are keeping the fellowship first.
3. Suggested sobriety requirement for this position is 2 years.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please make sure to email your sobriety resume directly to hawssecretary@gmail.com . This position will be held until 02/2021 as whoever steps into this position will be filling a vacated spot. If you have any additional questions, please email. Thank you.

Sincerely,

World Service Office Board Secretary

Adam D.

NOTHING HAPPENS IN GOD'S WORLD BY MISTAKE

Personal Story: Cherice – Atlanta, GA

Hi, my name is Cherice, and I'm a heroin addict. My sobriety date is April 20th, 2018. I have a sponsor who has a sponsor, and I

sponsor other women. I want to start by saying how grateful I am to have been asked to share my experience. The program

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has saved my life beyond measure. In this condensed version of my story I'm going to express what the 12 steps saved me from. What happened, what it was like, and what it's like now: The best way I can describe my childhood to you summed up in two words chaotic and confusing.

I found out at an early age that I was the product of rape. This deeply affected my conception of belonging, my self-esteem, and the overwhelming feeling of being unwanted. I was severely bullied and unhappy. I acted in self-destructive behavior such as self-harm and a suicide attempt. When I started high school, I started smoking weed and drinking with my friends. I had surgery, and when I woke up to a morphine drip, I had arrived. I will never forget the way I felt that day. I was diagnosed with a back condition. The doctor told me I would never be okay without pain medication. I finally had an answer to my physical and emotional pain. The seed had been planted which led to digging in people's medicine cabinets trying to find anything to recreate the feeling I felt the first time. I had my first experience with sexual assault at sixteen.

When I was nineteen, my Meme passed at 60 years old. She was my best friend. I left the room for five minutes, came back, and she was gone. I did everything I could to save her. I couldn't. This is when I crossed that imaginary line that for me is perfectly described in "The Doctor's Opinion" in the Big Book. I had my second experience with being sexually assaulted and I didn't want to live anymore. Then began the rehab halfway house shuffle. I have overdosed. I

was legally pronounced dead with no breathing or heart beat for eight minutes.

After eight years of being in and out of the rooms, I had my first experience with working the steps. I was sober for over a year, but I had no defense against picking up. I had never accepted spiritual help. I relapsed and ended up in the hospital and barely alive. I was assaulted and overdosing on heroin. My whole body was covered in bruises, and my face was unrecognizable. I had finally hit a bottom sufficient enough to find God.

The last 15 months of my life have been unbelievably incredible. I worked all twelve steps to the best of my ability. I found a relationship with God. I am a part of a fellowship that God speaks through on a regular basis. I have a loving relationship with my family. I have amazing friendships with people who love me for who I am. God is constantly doing for me what I cannot do for myself. I go to meetings. My home group is Smack Down on Sunday nights at 8pm.

I am dependable today. The material things I have gained through the program are nothing compared to the beautiful life I get to live today, trusting and inviting God into every aspect of my life. There are things that I consistently do to keep up with my spiritual progress. I hit my knees morning and night and write a gratitude list every single day. Sometimes I do more, sometimes I do less, but I always keep an open line of communication with my Higher Power. I am available to sponsor and take women through the steps when I asked. I make service commitments and keep them. I am the polar opposite of who I used to be.

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I still fall and act in old behaviors. I am not perfect, but I am enough. I still struggle all the time, and-- big shock-- I think about getting high. The truth is I have a defense today. I am able to go to the ER in agonizing pain and not accept narcotics. The program has taught me I can't, God can, so why don't I let him. I seek him, and he shows up, maybe not in the way I want, but always in the way I need. Nothing, absolutely

nothing happens in God's world by mistake. This is a simple program for complicated people. Once I stop thinking so much, start seeking, and take action, everything falls into place. Life is beautiful, and I am free today. I love you all and am immensely grateful for each and every one of you.

-Cherice B.

WATCHING A FELLOWSHIP GROW

Personal Story: Josiah P. – Green Bay, WI

My name is Josiah P. I've been clean since May 21st, 2013. I was first introduced to HA back when I had 90 days clean. Initially I was only attending NA and AA meetings, but I qualify to be a part of the HA fellowship due to my extensive research with heroin throughout my life. A friend of mine in recovery took me to my first HA meeting in Green Bay, WI. I was blown away by the friendly atmosphere and youthful energy in the meeting. I also thought it was cool how HA had its own key tags and introduction readings. I hadn't realized that recovering heroin addicts could have our own legitimate fellowship!

Since I was already in the process of going through the steps in the Big Book, I thought it was fitting that HA used the Big Book for the fellowship. Unfortunately, that was the only HA meeting in the Green Bay area, and the person who chaired that meeting moved away. She did leave the literature, meeting formats, and key tags with a friend of mine. I

was already doing service work in the other fellowships, so we went without a HA meeting for about a year and a half.

Two recovering heroin addicts in my recovery house decided to start a HA meeting at a new recovery café that had opened. Since I saw such a dire need for another HA meeting in our area, I decided to support this new meeting however I could. I continued to chair and share at HA meetings in our area. I've seen meetings dwindle and flourish over the years. I've seen many addicts come and go, but I've also seen several addicts work the steps and stay clean.

Over the years, HA has grown from one to two meetings a week to meetings every day of the week! Recovery is very strong in our community. I decided to start a Friday night meeting at 6 PM on my tribe's reservation. Initially the meeting attendance was one to three people. Just like I've seen with many

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other meetings, if the message is strong and traditions are upheld, the meeting will attract addicts. Our average attendance is now between five and six people, and we have the meeting around an outdoor fire in a wooded area. The meeting is very peaceful and spiritual. We have a few old timers with 30 plus years that attend as well.

I am grateful the HA fellowship has been such a major cornerstone in my recovery and has provided me an opportunity to carry the message to the newcomers. I look forward to watching HA continue to grow in my community.

-Josiah P.

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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