



H.A.W.S. **MAINLINE**

Heroin Anonymous World Services
Monthly Bulletin

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This informational bulletin's purpose is to
increase communication between the groups of
Heroin Anonymous throughout the world.



JANUARY **2020** ISSUE



Photo by Joseph Chan

POSITIONS OPEN: **VOTING AT LARGE & ADVISOR**

A message from the Heroin Anonymous World Services Office Board

Greetings,

Your WSOB (World Service Office Board) currently has a few openings that we are looking to fill. The positions that are open are a voting at large member and an advisor. Being that these positions are vacated you would be filling them until the end of their term. The at large position runs until 2021 and the adviser until 2022.

Contact The Mainline Bulletin:

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We are looking for members who have a working knowledge of the 12 concepts, 12 traditions, 12 steps of Heroin Anonymous, 2+ years sober and are able to make our monthly business meeting in person or via Google Hangouts.

If this seems like something you are interested in, please submit your resume to hawssecretary@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ILAS,
Adam D.
WSOB Secretary

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NO COMMUNITY IS PERFECT

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

I don't like everybody in our fellowship. It might be quite a shock to you that I have resentments. No community is perfect. Our fellowship isn't perfect. After all, I'm perfect, so I know what perfection looks like, right?

When you get us together in a room, we're a group of people more diverse than the Breakfast Club (I'm the nerd, in case you don't know me). Some of our personalities clash like a head-on collision, some of us just stay out of each other's ways, some of us are cool with each other, and some of us bond like sodium and chloride. We're still a new fellowship. We're young. We're immature. We're selfish. We're drug addicts.

We arrived in these rooms as agents of chaos.

Made up of such chaotic individuals, this fellowship could've fallen apart at the foundations once it was created. It easily could have not worked. Heroin addicts getting together, and recovery happens?

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Yet, here we are. We are still growing strong. In a time when opiate addiction has reached new heights, so have we.

We came in sharing a common solution to common problems, but our old solution stopped working. We were still left with a problem but needed a new solution. In my experience, most of my recovery has happened outside of meetings, with my sponsor, working with others, and struggling with life as a human being.

In these rooms though, we meet these people to guide us through the steps, others to work with as they come in as hopeless as we once were, people who challenge us, people who love us, people who share a common goal: recovery. In these rooms, we hear the experiences of others; we laugh, maybe we cry, we learn we're not alone, and we learn to connect.

Above I mentioned resentments and not liking everybody in the fellowship. That doesn't mean I don't connect with them. That doesn't mean I don't have love for them. In fact, I often feel a stronger connection with some fool once I've worked through that resentment with the help of others (and it's almost always me who was being the fool in the first place).

This fellowship has a strong sense of unity. We need this unity for our own personal recoveries. I'm glad to be a part of it. We of Atlanta are honored to be hosting the 3rd ever H.A. world convention later this year. I'm not the biggest party person, but I've shared some stupid fun times and have laughed to the point of crying around some of these folks. I look forward to more of that.

WE look forward to celebrating the unity of this group which has saved a great number of our lives!

In service,
Mark H.

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A HOME ANYWHERE

Personal Story: Kellie B. – Perryville Prison, AZ

I moved to Arizona with my mom when I was two. My mom is an alcoholic. Our lives were very dysfunctional.

She flew me to various states to meet these men she met online. Most of them were horrible, but she did not notice or care about the things they did.

I started doing meth, coke, ecstasy, and smoking weed by the time I was fourteen. At fifteen I tried heroin, and by seventeen I was shooting up. I had no clue what addiction was, and I was still very naive. I did not know you could “withdraw” from a drug, and so I was hooked ever since I started doing it.

Some things happened within the next couple years that fueled my addiction. I was in a bad car accident that resulted in me feeling like I looked like a monster. I dropped out of school and went into my heroin addiction full force. I was alone and sleeping in Walmart bathrooms before I was 18. My mom had left me to move to Michigan, so my family put me on a plane to California to live with my dad. I received a settlement for my car accident and moved back to Arizona. I was 18 and pregnant within a couple of months of my return. I thought my baby would save me, but we all know that is not true.

By the time she was three I had lost custody.

I ended up in the hospital with a blood infection from shooting up that almost made me septic and killed me. I was supposed to go to hospice after a month to finish my antibiotics, but my addiction was so strong I did not care if I lived or died, so I took my chances and left. Luckily, soon after I left, I was arrested and sentenced to 4.5 years in prison.

I have found H.A. and so much more because of the program. I am no longer broken. I am 26 years old and excited for the future for the first time in my life. HA saved me and helped me to find the light at the end of the tunnel. I have five months left and so much hope for myself. I do not know where I would be without HA.

The fellowship I have found are the first people I could ever trust and count on. I have a relationship with a higher power that I have never had before. But mostly, I have a place to call home no matter where I am at. A place where I am not judged for anything. I am just loved and welcomed. Thank you, HA!

- Kellie B.

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HOW H.A. CAN BEST STAY WHOLE, **AND SO SURVIVE**

A Member's Thoughts on Tradition 1: Melissa H. – Bend, OR

The Traditions are not simply "rules" that a group is supposed to follow, the Traditions were created based on the ten biggest mistakes AA made in their first 10 years. Bill Wilson referred to this time as the "flying blind period." The Twelve Traditions are a set of twelve spiritual principles.

All of the Traditions have a purpose, and that purpose is to ensure the longevity of the fellowship. The long form of Tradition one states, "Each member of Heroin Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. H.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our *common* welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

As human beings, we have natural God-given instincts; desires for things such as money, popularity, property, or prestige. Tradition one is asking us to do is to sacrifice these natural desires for the common good of Heroin Anonymous and the good of the group. It represents the spiritual principle of Unity. That means when I walk into a meeting of H.A., I am a heroin addict among heroin addicts. No one is any better or any worse.

It doesn't matter who has a better sponsor, or who has more sobriety time. It doesn't matter what your socioeconomic status is or how you

identify on the political spectrum. It doesn't matter your gender or race; we are all equal.

Considering Heroin Anonymous is still a very young fellowship, it is easy to want to overlook some of the Traditions in order to raise money or fill the seats.

Heroin Anonymous has the advantage of learning from their predecessors of Alcoholics Anonymous. We get to see what struggles the A.A. fellowship went through in the ten years before the Traditions were unanimously adopted by the fellowship in 1950.

That day at the conference in Cleveland when the Traditions became the second legacy of AA, Dr. Bob spoke from the podium, "*...Guided by the Twelve Traditions, we could not possibly be split apart by politics, religion, money or by any old-timers who might take a notion to be big shots. With none of us throwing our weight around in public, no one could possibly exploit A.A. for personal advantage, that is sure. For the first time I saw A.A.'s anonymity for what it really is. It isn't just something to save us from alcoholic shame and stigma; its deeper purpose is actually to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and public fame at A.A.'s expense. It really means personal and group sacrifice for the*

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benefit of all A.A..” H.A. has been given the gift of not having to experience the same problems that the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous endured.

Without the fellowship of Heroin Anonymous, the suffering heroin addict has no solution. If there are no meetings then the dying heroin addict has no place to go to get a sponsor and work the steps. In order for the survival of Heroin Anonymous, it is imperative that the Twelve Traditions are incorporated into each group. Groups of Heroin

Anonymous have a responsibility to learn and uphold these spiritual principles to ensure the survival of H.A.

Those of us heroin addicts who have been given the gift of a spiritual awakening through the twelve steps have a duty to conform and obey these spiritual principles so the future suffering heroin addict can be given the same opportunity to recover as we have.

- Melissa H

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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 haworldbulletin@gmail.com.

Thank you!

The Folks at The HAWS Mainline



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