



THE MAINLINE

SEPTEMBER 2017

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.

WORLD CONFERENCE UPDATE: HISTORY MADE!

The morning of August 11, 2017 something unprecedented happened within the fellowship of Heroin Anonymous. Maybe you were there in person. Maybe you called in. Perhaps this is the first you're hearing about it, but history was being made and the first steps leading towards the future of Heroin Anonymous were taken. From the ashes of dope sick burnouts and gutter junkies, a new breed of junkie is rising, the Service Junkie!

While this may seem a bit dramatic, the impact of what happened can't be overstated. Our first World Service Business Conference was held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual H.A. Arizona Area Convention. With participation from 17 states, a better outcome could not have been expected. This meeting began the process by which our growing fellowship will be able to discuss and vote on important matters, in a true group conscience, and bring us together in the spirit of unity. We are now in the process of preparing for the first face-to-face conference, which will be held August 29th, and 30th. This is in conjunction with the 2nd World Service Convention in Portland Oregon on August 31st through September 1st, 2018.

We began by calling every contact number available to World Services on the Heroin Anonymous website 3 months prior. With 33 pages of meetings, this was no small task. If we were able to reach someone, we informed the meeting contact that there was an upcoming phone conference and gave a little information regarding the nature of it as well. Then a few days before the actual call-in we had another calling party where we reached out to all the meeting contacts again to remind them of the call. We gathered emails and sent out the login info then sat back and hoped that what we did was enough.

To our surprise we not only had 17 states represented by at least one meeting, but 7 were there in person to participate and show support! The states in person were Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The additional states calling in were California, Indiana, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. After the process of recognizing each state we opened the floor up to questions and comments.

Contact HAWWS Bulletin:

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If you're reading this and are thinking, "Hey! My state has an H.A. meeting and we're not on that list!" or "My state is on that list, but this is the first I'm hearing about this!" don't freak out. We are still in the planning stages of the conference and will be accepting Area applications up until before the conference happens in Portland. It's now on you, the Area, to elect your Delegates and get them to our Conference in 2018 and participate in the group conscience that Heroin Anonymous is aspiring for and so desperately needs.

We need your help and participation now. There are six committees, which have been formed which will be working throughout the upcoming year to prepare agenda items for the Conference. If you would like to get involved, contact the desired committee via email and let them know you would like to be added.

The six are as follows:

Conference Committee: HAWSConferencechair@gmail.com

Structure and Bylaws: HAWSStructureandbylaws@gmail.com

Public Information: HAWSPIChair@gmail.com

Information Technology: HAW SITChair@gmail.com

H and I: HAWSHandIChair@gmail.com

Chips, Literature and Formats: HAWSWritingChair@gmail.com

If you have any further questions about how to get involved, elect your delegates or anything else pertaining to the Conference please email the Conference Committee chair at HAWSConferenceChair@gmail.com for more information. Thank you for reading and we look forward to seeing everyone in Portland 2018!!!

David S.

Heroin Anonymous World Service Office Vice Chair

DON'T LOOK BACK

Personal Story: Karlie T. – Phoenix, AZ

My name is Karlie T. I am 22 years old, and I am a heroin addict. I have been an addict since I was 14 years old. I have been in and out of rehabs, detoxes, and jail. I have used all kinds of substances, but heroin has always been my main love interest. It was a relationship marked by pain and agony, hiding, sleeping, stealing,

prostitution, and many other horrors. Rather than focus on the problem, however, I am going to talk more about a solution to this awful disease.

I have a 7-month-old daughter with Down syndrome that just lost her father to cancer. I took care of him for the duration of his illness. He was the love of my

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life, and when he passed away I let myself go. I had my mother take my daughter, and off I went down the rabbit hole. Feeling totally sorry for myself, I let my life go into utter chaos. I didn't care who I hurt or, more importantly, how my use affected my daughter. I was in some legal trouble, yet still totally unwilling to let go of all of the hurt long enough to get my head on straight.

One day, my mom came over with my daughter and gave me one last chance at coming with her to get straight. The courts were about to grant custody to my mother, which she didn't want. She knew how much my daughter and I needed each other. It took me one look at my precious girl to know that I had to take care of myself so I could take care of her. She had already lost her father. She did not need to lose her mother too.

My mother has given me the best advice, and it has helped me so much I needed to share it. She said, "Once you draw that line in the sand of where your limits are, then you turn all the way in the opposite direction, and you NEVER look back, you let go of the people, the chaos, the feelings, and you change everything."

With that advice in mind, I've had to change everything. I went through detox cold turkey, so I could really feel the pain and effects of what years of IV drugs did to me. I have distanced myself from everyone in my old circles and taken a break from all social media to focus on ME. I took the time to learn who I am, what I like and what I don't like, what I will and will not accept in all relationships in my life. I learned how to be a mom again. I rediscovered how to live life, because heroin had made me totally oblivious to the real world. I make a conscious effort to not complain and to be grateful and positive every day. I try to love myself, look myself in the mirror and REALLY forgive myself for everything. How could I ever feel like I deserve any better if I don't? It's not just meetings and sponsorship that keeps you sober. Not everyone fits in the same box, and everyone's program should be uniquely their own. Find your passion for living again; every one of us has it.

- Karlie T.

THIS IS OUR 12TH SUGGESTION

Personal Story: An HA Member – Phoenix, AZ

The first time I heard the message of HA, I was in a treatment facility in Phoenix, Arizona and had only a few days sober. My thoughts still raced, my body still ached, and all I could think about was getting high. These thoughts left me consumed with guilt

for obsessing about using in spite of all the wreckage I had already caused my family. My grandmother stopped answering the door, my parents changed their locks, my brothers would no longer take my phone calls- I was completely lost and alone with a

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second chance at recovery, and all I could think about was what hustle I could pull to sate this obsession.

A middle aged man came to the treatment center on a Saturday to chair an HA H&I meeting with nothing special except a big book and an HA preamble. He shared his experience of his suffering with this disease he called "Alcoholism." He talked about the insanity that comes with walking out of a detox center and heading straight back to the dope house, even though he vowed with every fiber of his being that things would be different this time. Although this man was nothing like me- twenty years older than me, served time behind bars, sold drugs and was a father- I heard my story as he spoke. When I got out of treatment, I called the number that I got from that HA meeting in rehab, and a girl directed me to my first HA meeting.

Today, H&I is one of the most important aspects of my sobriety. In the last few years of being an HA member I have been fortunate enough to watch HA grow and overcome the barriers which obstructed us from carrying the message to heroin addicts confined to rehabs, jails, detoxes and hospitals. Too often we faced sobriety requirements, distrust, struggles finding committed HA members or committed facilities, and a general misunderstanding of HA as a 12-step fellowship.

Through the amazing work of our H&I committee and the architects that have reinforced the structure to help see this succeed, we now have 20+ H&I meetings across the Phoenix Metropolitan area and two jail meetings. Our H&I committee meets once a month to catch up on the current meetings, and if a meeting doesn't report

for three consecutive committee meetings, we have a group conscience to send in new troops to cover the meeting. We believe a meeting that doesn't exist is better than a meeting that was created and goes dark.

Another barrier we have run into as an H&I group is supporting the 7th tradition. We made an initiative to create eccentric, brightly colored coffee cans for H&I that were supplied to almost every HA home group across the valley. We hope the H&I can will be a staple in HA meetings as much as coffee and the opening serenity prayer. We also created an HA H&I workshop based on the 12 traditions to arm H&I volunteers with the suggested "Do's and Don'ts" of carrying the message to a facility.

In the beginning of 2016, Heroin Anonymous World Services began receiving letters from a prison in Illinois asking for volunteers, HA literature and general support. The meeting was started by, and continues to be run by, a group of inmates. They reported being excited to hear they were the first HA meeting to be held in a prison anywhere in the world. They continue to write often and are still looking for a panel or volunteer to share their experience, strength and hope once a month. (Contact HAWS if you're available to volunteer near Springfield, Illinois.)

An HA member handwrote letters, emailed and called every representative publicly listed to a local county jail in August 2016 and explained the HA program. Eight months later, we were overjoyed to have been granted badges to start the first ever HA meeting in a jail. Persistence paid off and we are now in two jails with program coordinators frequently requesting more HA volunteers to come and carry the message.

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Often times, H&I is the first exposure these inmates have ever had with a 12 step group.

I overheard an old-timer in a different fellowship talk about seeing men serving consecutive life sentences be pardoned of their sentences because wardens saw the grace of god working in their life, through this program. The 12 steps are a true gift and an opportunity to turn our suffering into

purpose. H&I is where we are, the still suffering heroin addict. Carry this message to those who still suffer, be fearless and do not deny yourself an experience to make all of the hell we walked through mean something.

- An Anonymous Member

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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