



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.



JUNE **2022** ISSUE

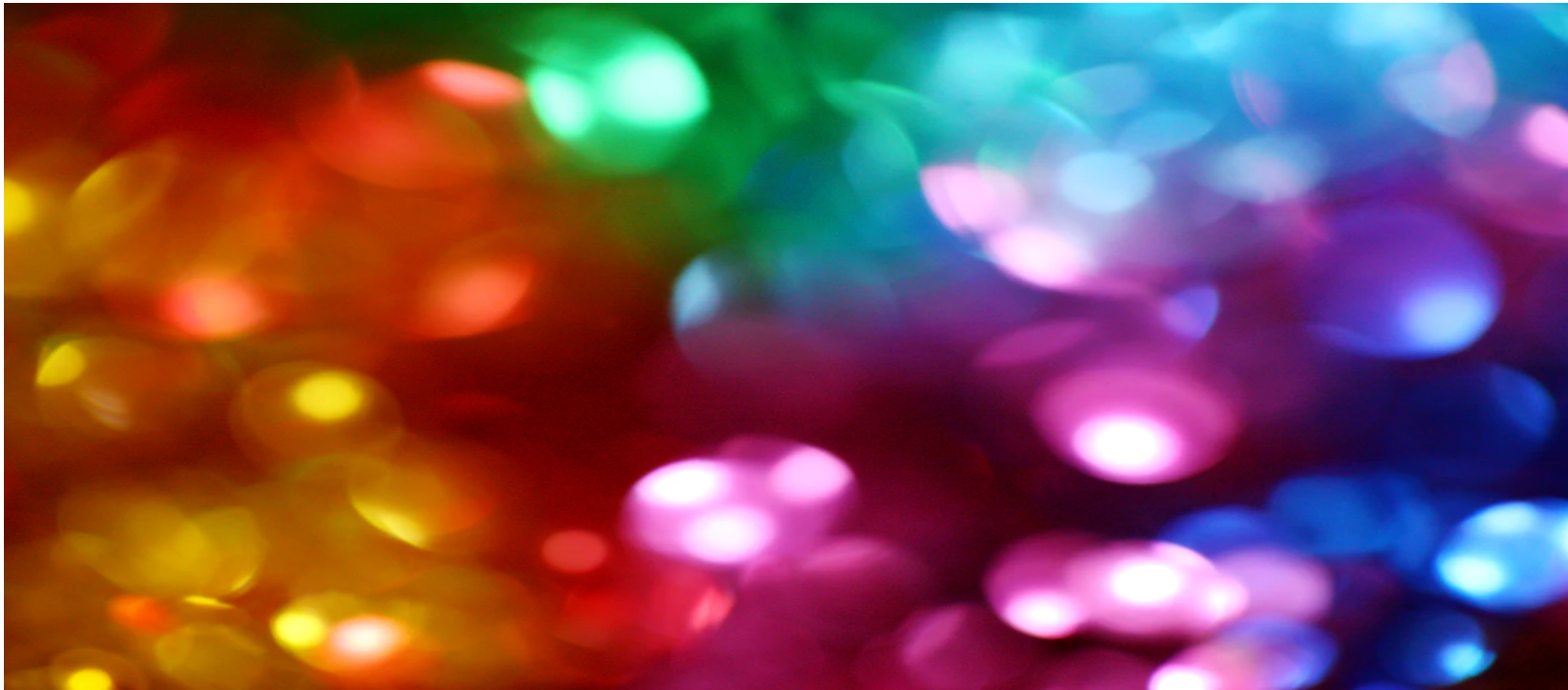


Photo by: Sharon McCutcheon

H.A.W.S.O.B. **UPDATE**

Latest news from our World Service Office Board

Greetings from the HA World Services Board!

Here is some information to help you stay up to date with all things Heroin Anonymous. For those of you Mainline subscribers that are new, the HAWS board is compiled primarily of HA members who meet monthly to tend to HA business throughout the year.

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Conference: The HAWS board is continuing to work with the world conference committees to prepare for the HA World Service Conference in Phoenix, AZ in July... NEXT MONTH. If you have any questions about attending the conference, feel free to email me, the Outreach Chair. Register at: <https://heroinanonymous.org/conference/>

New HAWS board emails: Fresh new emails are live! For HAWS positions, it's time to say goodbye to @gmail and hello to @heroinanonymous.org! Here are the new emails which you can also find on the contact page of our HA website (<https://heroinanonymous.org/contact/>)
Secretary: HawsSecretary@HeroinAnonymous.org
Webmaster: HawsWebmaster@HeroinAnonymous.org
Start Up Kits: HaStartUpKits@HeroinAnonymous.org
Chips and Literature: HawsChipsAndLit@HeroinAnonymous.org
Public Information: HawsPublicInformation@HeroinAnonymous.org
Outreach: HawsOutreach@HeroinAnonymous.org

Website Accuracy: Do you like the idea of heroin addicts in your area finding your homegroup? Well, then, let's make sure your homegroup meeting is accurate on the website! Please check your homegroup or any meetings in your area's information on the website for accuracy and if there are any discrepancies (time, date, location, contact info, etc.) email HawsWebmaster@HeroinAnonymous.org to correct it.

HAWS Positions: Looking for more involvement with HA? Then service with the HAWS board may be right for YOU! Our nominations committee is continuing to screen applications, interview, and recommend candidates to join the board. If you are interested in the following positions, please send service resumes, references, and inquiries to: HawsSecretary@HeroinAnonymous.org

- **At-large Voting Member:** This position is for new members to the board. Its sole function is to show up and help us to discuss and vote on decisions. Eventually these members join other committees and may be asked to fill other roles.

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- **Non-Heroin Addict Advisor:** This is someone who is not a member of HA. They may be an expert in recovery fellowships, non-profits, or possess various business skills that they wish to volunteer for the good of HA.

In loving service,
Anna A., HAWS Outreach Chair
HawsOutreach@HeroinAnonymous.org

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HE LOVES ME ANYWAY

Personal Story: Adam L. New York

When I wake up tomorrow I will have 4 years of continuous sobriety in HA. It will also be my 30th birthday. Yes, I went into detox, for the 8th time, on my 26th birthday. I had realized that it was my birthday, but the day no longer held any significance in my mind. It was usually just another day for me to grind through while trying to acquire enough heroin to make myself completely numb. My mother drove me that morning and after forcing her to stop at two different dope spots and witness me shoot up in the passenger seat, she dropped me off with tears in her eyes and told me she loved me. She had no reason to believe that it would be the last time she would have to take that drive with me, but by the grace of God it was.

It was only after several years of attempts at sobriety that something finally clicked and I became willing to go to any lengths to stay sober. Over the past 4 years H.A. has truly given me a life beyond my wildest dreams. An amazing wife, a house to share with her, a baby on the way and so much more. But most of all, H.A. has given me a connection to a Higher Power that I thought I had lost forever. I truly believed something deep down in my soul had been so badly broken that I would never be able to live a "normal" life again. I needed every aspect of our program in my life for me to fully recover from my heroin addiction. Service became a huge part of my life and I did as much as I could.

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As time went on my life filled up with all of the gifts that sobriety had given me and I was no longer able to devote 100% of my time to H.A. Over the years I've struggled with feeling as if I don't do as much for H.A. as I could, as much as I was able to do within the first year or so of my sobriety. I would beat myself up about it, feeling like God was disappointed in me for not doing enough, which would result in me withdrawing even more, all the while still meeting with sponsees, being of service as a NYS Delegate, and making my homegroup regularly.

Once that spiral starts though, at least for me personally, it's hard to break out of. Feeling disconnected, resulting in less prayer and meditation and then feeling even more disconnected. This went on for a long time and reflecting on it one night a thought seemed to suddenly flow over me...

"God loves me just as much as he did the very first time I broke down and got on my knees in that rehab and finally asked for help" He loves me exactly the same infinite amount no matter how much service I do or how many meetings I get to. Whether it's your first day of sobriety or your 20th year, our Higher Power is made up of infinite love and kindness and we need only tap into that to stay sober for today. That thought shook away all of those feelings of failure and allowed me to start feeling "a part of" again. It's ok that my sobriety doesn't look like it did a few years ago. It constantly changes and even when I beat myself up over it, God never does. He loves me anyway.

-Adam L.

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ONE HAT **AT A TIME**

Tradition Twist: Melissa H. Grants Pass, OR.

Tradition 6: "Our groups ought never endorse, finance or lend the H.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of

money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

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Having recovered from ten years as a hopeless and desperate heroin addict, I have found a strong sense of responsibility to grow in understanding and effectiveness when it comes to how an H.A. group functions. We were given twelve spiritual principles, known as the Twelve Traditions, as guidelines to protect the H.A. groups and fellowship as a whole from things that can tear us apart. Tradition Six cautions me against "wearing two hats," meaning that regardless of whatever I do outside a meeting, when I enter the room of my homegroup or any H.A. meeting, I take off any hat I wear outside and put my heroin addict hat on. I am simply a heroin addict among heroin addicts.

The foundation of our fellowship is based on the essence of one heroin addict talking to another heroin addict, sharing our personal experiences and precisely how we have recovered through the twelve steps. What qualifies me to carry this message? I did not go to a school to study the program of H.A. and graduate from H.A. college. I didn't become an addiction specialist to study how heroin affects the brain. I have something much more valuable—I am armed with facts about myself from having a genuine heroin addiction, and I have recovered by working our twelve steps. I relate to other heroin addicts by sharing my own personal experiences in my active addiction

and I am willing to share the solution I have found in H.A. I talk about how I used to spend hours in the bathroom, sick, trying to find a vein to get well; throwing away my needles because "I wasn't going to use anymore," only to then dig them out of the trash hours later; the many times the times I attempted to "kick" on my own, saving up Xanax and weed to help ease my withdrawal symptoms, only to get loaded the next day. The abscesses, falsifying drug tests, overdosing and being injected with Narcan, running from law enforcement. Those are facts based on my experiences and those are the experiences that I can use to win the confidence of another heroin addict in a few minutes.

Recovery from my heroin addiction through the Twelve Steps is what qualifies me to carry the message of Heroin Anonymous. What I choose to do in my professional life is up to God. We all need income to live and survive. What I do for income is simply what I do for income. Some of us find passion in working with others in the recovery field. Having been through similar experiences makes it easy to find compassion for those still struggling. Some get sober and are rehired in a profession they worked before active addiction. Some of us get sober and uncover skills or qualities we never knew existed and find a career in a new field. What I do for work doesn't make me any more or any less of a heroin addict and what I do for

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work doesn't affect my membership to Heroin Anonymous. When I walk into the rooms of H.A., I take my employment hat off, and put on my heroin addict hat.

Tradition six cautions me to not wear both at the same time. I don't hand out business cards in meetings or promote my business inside the rooms. My sole purpose for attending a meeting is to carry the message to the sick and suffering heroin addict. I do this to protect the fellowship and the newcomer. A person walking into their first H.A. meeting ever needs to know that I have no ulterior motive. They need to know that I am not trying to profit off of what may be the worst moment of their life. They need to feel safe and welcome. I do all of this to protect the fellowship of

Heroin Anonymous. I know there are thousands dying of heroin addiction.

Maybe they don't know there is a solution, or maybe they aren't ready to surrender. I want the doors to remain open for when the suffering decide to find a meeting. Tradition Six safeguards our fellowship-cautioning me against any affiliation, actual or implied, to ensure nothing can impair THE message or divert us from our primary purpose.

-Melissa H.

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THE SIX WARRANTIES

Concepts Column: Pat B. - Rochester, NY

What's up service junkies! I want to thank you all for the support and interest in this column. My goal was to find a way to show the readers how the principles in many of the Concepts can be practical and useful in day-to-day life. I have really enjoyed the feedback and a chance to share my experience while brushing up on some technical knowledge. In

our final installment we will be looking at Concept Twelve, also known as the "Conference's General Warranties."

Concept 12 reads: "General Warranties of the Conference: In all its proceedings, the World Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the H.A. Tradition, taking great

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care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that the sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Heroin Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Fellowship of Heroin Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

I like to think of this concept as similar to Step Twelve, which is the glue that holds my sobriety together. Step twelve basically says "OK, great. We got you cleaned up, now live a life where you help other heroin addicts and keep doing ALL these other things we showed you." Well, concept twelve is a way to essentially tell our conference, committees, and trusted servants the same thing. One more reminder to practice these principles in all our affairs, except this time we are referring to the principles in the Traditions and other concepts.

Unlike the other concepts which generally highlight one or two principles, this bad boy lays out six of them in the form of warranties. Let's break them down:

#1 Taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power: This falls in line with our traditions saying we should be self-supporting and have the "least possible" organization. Our conference, our committees, and our homegroups need structure, money, and leaders, but they must be in check.

#2 That the sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle: I bet your homegroup has a "prudent reserve" and you already know it means enough savings to provide basic services for a little while. BOOM! You're already an expert in this warranty.

#3 That none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: everyone's vote counts the same and everyone deserves to be heard. This reminds us about the right of participation and Tradition Two.

#4 That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity: use a 2/3's majority vote for all big decisions. We have discussed this one before.

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#5 That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy: This is super important. Basically, we do our best to not single people out or trash them if they mess up, but tradition one and concept nine remind us that we can absolutely fire people or ask them to step down if they disrupt unity or cannot meet requirements of a service job. Also, we cannot act on things that would bring HA into the spotlight for a controversial outside issue.

#6 Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action: This simply means that we always allow the vote and the voice of each member to matter.

These warranties are stuffed with valuable principles we can incorporate into our lives. We can remind ourselves that we don't always have to flex our authority or have our way in every situation.

Should I hoard money, supplies and possessions to a point where it takes away from my ability to live life? What are areas of my life I am trying to control where I have no business imposing my will? When I am in a group setting, I should remember to be as fair as possible.

Don't go out of your way to humiliate people who mess up and don't be a DICK in public! And finally, use my voice and my ability to make decisions to uplift myself and my fellows.

Thank you all for taking this brief journey around the concepts with me. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference.

-Pat B.

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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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