



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.



AUGUST **2020** ISSUE



Photo by [Jr Korpa](#)

To celebrate our 19 year anniversary, us folks at The Mainline would like to take a blast to the past and publish our August 2020 issue! Thank you to everyone who reads, sends in content and most importantly carries the message to the heroin addict who still suffers.

We are also in desperate need for content! Please send in a story using our email haworldbulletin@gmail.com

Happy 19th Birthday to Heroin Anonymous!

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 H.A. members who meet monthly to tend to H.A. business throughout the year.

2023 HAWS Conference: The official 2023 Heroin Anonymous World Service Conference was held earlier this month in Phoenix, AZ and was a beautiful collection of H.A. members representing 23 areas in 20 states. World Service Conferences are a time for

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H.A. members with different experiences and perspectives to come together to make changes to H.A. at the world level with the goal of improving H.A. as a fellowship.

Some highlights of the conference include: book survey results explored, new 'Fellowship + The Program' pamphlet approved, new 'Self-Supporting: Money, Responsibility, and Spirituality' pamphlet approved, Public Information presentation for facilities approved, multiple PSA's approved, and after years of discussion, a new 'Singleness of Purpose' reading was approved that says: "Heroin Anonymous wishes to include all people who suffer from opiate and opioid addictions into the classification of 'heroin addict,' as we believe there is little difference in getting free from these substances."

The official minutes will be posted on the website by early September of this year.

2024 HAWS Conference and Convention: Want to get in on the action at the next conference or attend the huge H.A. World Party (Convention) in July of 2024? Head to heroinanonymous.org/convention/ for more info and begin to book travel to Buffalo, NY.

Bookmarks/Merchandise/Art Request: H.A. World Services has produced its first ever H.A. World merchandise... bookmarks! These limited edition designs are available now at \$3 per bookmark. Head to www.HeroinAnonymous.org/Order to snag some! We have a request for artists or artsy heroin addicts: please send any merchandise ideas or designs to Merchandise@HeroinAnonymous.org.

Virtual Meetings: *Do you want to attend an H.A. meeting 1,000 miles away from your very own couch? Do you find it interesting to hear heroin addicts from another region share their experience, strength, and hope?* We have close to 30 active zoom meetings in 10 different states. Go to our world website, click meetings, and click the link for online meetings. Make sure to convert the time zone! Email HawsWebmaster@HeroinAnonymous.org if you notice any inaccuracies or want to add a meeting.

HAWS Positions: Looking for more involvement with H.A.? 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.

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- **Non-Addict Advisor:** This is someone who is not a member of H.A. They may be an expert in recovery fellowships, non-profits, or possess various business skills that they wish to volunteer for the good of H.A.
- **Heroin Addict Advisor:** This is someone who is a member of H.A. This person will utilize their experience with H.A. and 12 Step service to advise the board.
- **Public Information Chair:** This position is for a member of H.A. who will work with public information at the world level. The efforts of Public Information can be best summarized as taking actions to increase the general population's awareness and accessibility of Heroin Anonymous.
- **3x At-large Voting Members:** This position is for new members to the board; its sole function is to show up and help us discuss and vote on decisions. Eventually, these members join other committees and may be asked to fill other roles. For example, for one of these spots, we are looking for someone with experience in intellectual property or literature writing.

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

2021 CONVENTION **UPDATES**

Information about the World Convention

Hello Heroin Anonymous!

We're super excited about the 2020 HA World Convention and we're going to do everything we can to make certain that this is the best one yet! Right now we are interested in getting HA members to help with both public information and outreach. You DO NOT have to live in the Atlanta area to be involved.

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- For **Public Information**, we're contacting various media outlets and other public institutions to let them know that about the World Convention. We'd love to have your help, especially if you're familiar with communicating with the media.
- For **Outreach**, we're contacting Areas, Intergroups, and individual HA meetings throughout the country about the convention. If you think you'd be good at spreading the message of the convention within the fellowship, please let us know.

In either case, you can contact us hawcoutreach@gmail.com.

Sincerely, the 2020 HA World Convention PI and Outreach Committees

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SERVING THE **2021 CONVENTION**

Shoot the Breeze with Brent B., 2021 Atlanta World Convention Vice Chair

Carolyn: What led you to want to be the Vice Chair on the Convention?

Brent: I used to be in the Outreach Position, then the Vice Chair position opened up when the previous person stepped down, the fit was a good one. I've been the first Public Relations chair for Heroin Anonymous. I've been working in this for nearly 8 years... deciding what to publish in the Mainline.

My goal is, was, and probably always will be, to reach the still sick and suffering heroin addict. The rehab facilities in my state are lacking, to say the least. Sometimes, Heroin Anonymous is the only "house on the block" for recovery.

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Carolyn: Building on this, Brent, what strengths are you bringing to your position?

Brent: I've spent my working life working with the public, in customer service. The concepts of communication with others, as well as how to encourage and motivate others around me is something that I have strengths in. I have a passion for spreading the word of Heroin Anonymous through the News outlets, treatment centers, health professionals, as well as correctional facilities.

Carolyn: In what ways have you grown in sobriety with this commitment?

Brent: I've only been in this position for a couple months now. Given that, I believe I have furthered my abilities to manage teams/committees on a more professional level. I've found that as I allow others to do things differently than I would have, it is having me grow in humility.

Carolyn: What else would you like the fellowship to know about Brent?

Brent: I believe service to the program has given me grace and time to get through the steps. It helps keep me out of myself. Humility is the key to happiness.

Keep on the lookout for more information on the 2021 Atlanta World Convention! Thanks for being a part of our recovery.

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THE GIFT OF DESPERATION

Personal Story: Lee M. – Birmingham, AL

When I was asked to write something for the Mainline, I felt like I was back in my online college course drafting an assignment. I have not written an essay for some time until

now, but I do have fond memories of typing essays, discussion posts, and research papers for my social work degree. I pursued this degree, in part, to share my experience,

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strength and hope to individuals who suffer from untreated drug and heroin addiction. I am honored to submit a bit of my limited knowledge on this topic.

In my early teens, I liked to rebel against authority and hang with the outcast crowds. That meant smoking joints and drinking beers until we hallucinated and regurgitated orange goop. This less than pleasurable expulsion of fluids was accompanied by a sense of elation, escape, and relief. It was something I enjoyed so much I would continue to chase the feeling for years and years. I eventually needed harder, more potent substances to achieve that state of being. This included stimulants, opiates, depressants, and anything else you could eat, snort, or shoot. My life became a train wreck, and unfortunately, I was not the only passenger.

It took many damaged relationships, numerous wrecked vehicles, overdosing, failed treatment attempts, and a career as a criminal before I was given the gift of desperation to change, for which I am extremely grateful. Many heroin addicts never get the opportunity to experience this gift. Unfortunately, this disease takes lives before the gift presents itself. That is why it is important that I spread the message: to reach the lives of the sick and suffering, to educate men

and women, and to allow them to experience the same liberties I have. I have been fortunate to stay sober every day since March 20, 2014. I decided on that day and every day afterwards that the "Lee" who once existed is no more.

That day was my final arrest for the possession of a controlled substance. I was certain that I was going to prison, due to my numerous drug offenses. Luckily, I was granted the opportunity to enter a year-long faith-based facility and complete three years of probation. That was one of the hardest years of my life. I had some knowledge of the 12 steps but was unable to practice them in this setting. One could say I went through the motions and white-knuckled it for a year. Upon completion of the treatment program, I still felt I was missing something, and I knew drugs were not the answer. I rushed back into the rooms of Heroin Anonymous and quickly obtained a sponsor. Although it is odd that I did not work the steps until after nearly 2 years of sobriety, I know that it was part of my plan of spiritual growth. Today is much different. I work a thorough program. I have a sponsor, and I try to live selflessly. I choose life today, and it is because I have chosen the program of Heroin Anonymous. Thank you for this opportunity.

- Lee M.

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FROM A HOPELESS STATE

Personal Story: Dalyss K. – Birmingham, AL

My name is Dalyss, and I am a heroin addict. My sobriety date is September 10, 2014. My homegroup is Breaking Point. I never thought I'd end up here sober, and frankly, for a long time I didn't want to. The first time I shot dope, I felt like I had arrived. This initial use was followed by seven years struggling through all the trials we experience. I had gotten to the place where I was screwed if recovery worked, and I was screwed if it didn't. If it worked, I'd never get to use heroin again; if it didn't, I was going to use again. I guess that was my jumping off point.

When I first entered the rooms, I had a severe junkie complex. If you didn't shoot dope like I did (and in my opinion no one had), then you couldn't help me. I asked my sponsor if I could edit out every mention of alcohol in the Big Book and replace it with heroin. Instead, she encouraged me to spend my time doing something more productive.

When I was able to really listen and be present with the fellowship of Heroin Anonymous, a miraculous thing happened. I started seeing the effects of recovery on other people. They were laughing, they were

sharing, they were being open with each other. Like the good addict I was, I jumped full force into the fellowship. I took on service positions, worked through the steps, attended meetings and business meetings, and started working with other women.

In sobriety I have married the love of my life (also a member of Heroin Anonymous), had two babies, and now I am a managing partner at a women's sober living facility. I could never have imagined my life would be as fulfilling as it is today. I have a relationship with a Higher Power. I have real friends in the fellowship. I have a relationship with my family today. None of this would be possible without Heroin Anonymous.

If you're on the fence as to whether or not you should embrace the fellowship and work the steps, hopefully my experience can demonstrate what will happen if one takes the action. The events that followed when I took the action were more than I could have ever wished for. I love myself and my life today, and I love you guys for being there with me in the fellowship.

-Dalyss K

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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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