



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.



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APRIL **2024** ISSUE



Photo by: [akashskyprince](#)

Greetings from 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.

2024 HAWS Conference and Convention: Want to celebrate Heroin Anonymous's 20th birthday? Want to get in on the action at the next conference or attend the huge H.A. World Party (Convention) in August 2024? Head to heroinanonymous.org/convention/ for more info and begin to book travel to Buffalo, NY. Woohoo!

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 creative or artistic H.A. Members: 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.

Vice-Treasurer: This position serves to support the Treasurer in all HAWS financial matters including budgeting, tax filing, supervising bank accounts, and assessing the financial status of this fellowship.

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.

Chips, Literature, and Merchandise Chair: This position is for a member of H.A. who will work with our paid employee to monitor chip sales, literature sales and startup kits. This member will also oversee the merchandise committee to create and distribute HAWS merchandise.

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. 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

I LIVE TO GIVE OTHERS HOPE

Personal Story: Joshua B. Grand Rapids, MI.

This story previously appeared in the November 2022 edition of The Mainline.

I was born in Shelby, Michigan and raised most of my life in Northern Michigan. I graduated from Hart Senior High and Michigan State University where I became a robotic engineer. I started using drugs at a young age, going from weed and alcohol to finally falling in love with heroin. I used for 20 years. It cost me everything in my life. I chose drugs over my family, my kids, my wife, my family. My every need was heroin. I was so wrapped up in it that I went to jail, prison, and had 22 overdoses.

My addiction went out of control in July of 2007 when my mom passed away holding my hand. Heroin helped me cope. I had no idea heroin would become my only love. I went from an educated, working family man to an out of control addict who gave everything up. I went to many states trying to get clean, only to get deeper in my addiction as I found myself homeless in Florida, Colorado, Washington, Maine, Vermont, and California.

Ashley, my sister-in-law, and David, my brother, got me back home to Michigan from Colorado

in September of 2019. Three days

after being home, I overdosed in Muskegon, Michigan and ended up in ICU for 11 days. I woke up

clean and sober on September 27, for the first time in 20 years.

The first time I ever asked for help on my own, I ended up going to treatment and then going to another program for 30 days. During my duration of recovery, I reconnected with my dad's best friend who had six years clean. I moved into his recovery house where he helped me maintain sobriety and eventually get off of MAT.

I became very involved with H.A. and another 12-Step fellowship. H.A. saved my life. I went from having no hope or desire to live to wanting to help others find recovery. Today I have three years clean and sober. I have learned about living life on life's terms as I was recently diagnosed with stage 4 Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Lung which has metastasized to my spine, brain, prostate, and torso.

Today I live to give others hope and tell them recovery is possible. Without H.A., I would

not be where I am at. I am so very grateful for the opportunity to share a little bit about my story, as well as run the Grand Rapids chapter of H.A. Due to circumstances, we had to shut our meeting down. Today I help run a sober house and work with recovering addicts. I sponsor guys and I

chair meetings. Most importantly, none of this would be possible without God, my recovery, my family, and my sponsor.

-Joshua B.

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SPIRIT OF AUTONOMY

Tradition Twist: Anonymous

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or H.A. as a whole."

Our group is our own; we have the right to be autonomous.

This does not mean that we change the pronouns in the Big Book or take the word God out just because our group wants to. We do not have the right to do that. We own our meeting and all the stuff in it, but we do not own the Steps or Traditions.

Customs are something we can decide for ourselves and that we do have ownership over. Examples of these include: changing the format or location of our meeting, do we chant, do we close with the Lord's Prayer? Or, my personal favorite, do we use expensive Starbucks coffee or get the cheaper Great Value Walmart brand to save money?

Tradition Four is also an inventory Tradition. Is our group breaking other Traditions without honestly realizing it? Through this process, we might

find out we have been acting quite wrong for some time, but thank God there's no H.A. police who are going to come busting through the door and shut us down for our mistakes. But keep in mind we do NOT continue to act wrongly. Once we KNOW better, we need to DO better. Just as we see our mistakes and patterns in the Fourth Step, so do we change our behavior when needed.

We must take into consideration the spiritual consequences that come from not following these spiritual laws. Either we abide by what God wants us to do and grow in understanding and effectiveness, or heroin will surely take us back to misery. The choice is ours to make.

Anon.

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Upstate New York Area of Heroin Anonymous Presents



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H.A.W.S. Convention
Buffalo, NY
2024

Contact The Mainline Bulletin:

All correspondence will be filtered by our H.A. bulletin committee at: haworldbulletin@gmail.com.
We can also be contacted through our website at: www.heroinanonymous.org

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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