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Life's Terms Turned

By: AJ H

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A year ago, I was approaching the 40th anniversary of the first day I stopped using. A year ago, I was also homeless, working every night on the midnight shift, and I was financially insecure. "Life's terms" were harsh. I was filled with despair. What little hope I had was in a small, small corner of my heart. Partly it was my circumstances—life without an address is a hard way to live. But more so it was because in all that opportunity I'd made so little effort to discipline my finances. I was taking no joy in my pending anniversary. I wondered if I would even do what was needed to get there. I took inventory of what was keeping me from yielding to the despair and found seven things: the momentum

of my clean time; the experience and message in our literature; my friends, old and new; service; our Steps; our meetings; and the spirit and fellowship of NA. I began to put my effort into all, some, or at least one of these things every day. What has happened since then is, simply put: "Life's terms" turned. A permanent home was afforded me. An opportunity opened up for better employment—a livable income at a day job. Much of my loneliness was washed away. Two things helped me most as circumstances changed. One is the NA group I found where I was comfortable, supported, encouraged, challenged, brought to task, and, most of all, loved. In my first meeting, they gave me a better perspective on my life as it was then. They also gave me their strength to go against my despair and to choose between two potential permanent homes. I know not all NA groups are this

robust and generous, but I walked into one that is. The other thing is that I reestablished a habit of evening inventory, just before bed. I figured out several things that are most important to my daily success and my daily growth. Every night I rate how I did with them, including, getting to bed on time, not wasting time game-playing or TV-watching, calling a home group member, preparing my clothes for the next day, accomplishing the goals of my job, and so on. Between my daily awareness of my missteps and the love of my fellow home group members, I am changing. My spirit is easing and, along with that, "life's terms" are also. This year, I look forward to my anniversary. To enjoy it; To celebrate it; To be grateful for it.

(Reprinted, with permission, from the NA Way Magazine; Jan. 2018 Issue. Vol. 35 Number 1)

THE COLOR of RECOVERY

by Mike H, Indiana, USA and others who shared their local key tag words of wisdom

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South City Area Newsletter, V2:I4, April 2008, Chicago

Welcome – White



The international color of surrender; you never have to use again, just for today! If you want to use, put this key tag in your mouth; when it dissolves, you can use!

Thirty Days – Orange



The color for caution; you should be cautious at thirty days; avoid old playmates, playgrounds, and playthings. "Orange" you glad you made it, or "orange" you glad you're here and not wearing an orange (county jail) jumpsuit?

Sixty Days – Green



The grass is always greener on the NA side of the street. Green for "go." Go to a lot of meetings!

Ninety Days – Red



Red means stop. Stop and take a look at your program. You are no longer "marooned" on that island of isolation.



Six Months – Basic Blue

The color of the sky, because the sky's the limit for you in NA! The color of our Basic text (hopefully you've read it by now).



Nine Months – Yellow

The color of the sun; which you can see when you get up in the morning instead of using into the night. The color of urine as in, "you're in" the right place, and you should be able to pass a urine test with nine months clean.



One Year – Iridescent - Glow in the Dark

It glows in the dark so you don't have to. It glows in the dark, like the glow in our hearts.



Eighteen Months – Gray

Every gray cloud has a silver lining – and the key tag is gray with silver lettering. The color of duct tape – we stuck to the program. Battleship gray – the war is over!



Multiples of Years – Black

The color of coal, which turns into diamonds when it's compressed – and we are all diamonds in the rough. Black and gold, because you listened to what you were told. Gold and black because you kept coming back.

Keep Coming Back

Manitoba Area Info & Help lines: www.masnca.org

Brandon (204) 727-2601 Winnipeg (204) 981-1730

ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS

- Tues. Dec. 18th – Andrea R. – 17 years at Equinox; 7:30pm
- Sat. Dec. 22nd – SOS will be having a Christmas potluck at 8:15 following the meeting. Please bring a dish if you can
- Sun. Dec. 23rd – Steve D. – 9 years at Road to Recovery; 8:00pm
- Thur. Dec. 27th – Becky L. – 4 years at WINA; 6:30pm
- Sat. Dec. 29th – Dean W. is speaking at SOS
- Sat. Jan. 5th – Adam G. – 1 year at SOS; 7:00pm
- Mon. Jan. 14th – Mal S. – 18 years at Genesis; 7:00pm
- Wed. Jan. 16th – Cold asses, warm hearts. Speaker meeting and fellowship at Home at Last
- Tues. Jan. 22nd – Ken S. – 24 years at Broadway Nooner
- Sat. Jan. 26th – Kory W. – 3 years at SOS; 7:00pm

MEETING UPDATES

- Broadway group is closed Dec. 24-28th
- Equinox group is open Christmas day regular time
- Howling Wolves Wed. meeting is cancelled
- WINA's first Thursday meeting is Dec. 27th, same location at 6:30pm. Closed Dec. 17-26th.
- Genesis group open through the holidays

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA

- Nominations to go back to groups:
 - Robert R. for MASC Treasurer
 - Terrance S. for A&E Chair
 - Dean W. for RCM
- Open Positions are:
 - MASC Vice Chair (Nominations Oct. Elections Nov)
 - MASC Secretary (Nominations Dec. Elections Jan.)
 - Phonline (Nominations Feb. Elections Mar.)
 - Literature (Nominations Mar. Elections Apr.)
 - Outreach (Nominations Mar. Elections Apr.)
 - MACCNA (Nominations July. Elections Aug.)

Profile of an Addict Submitted by Jennifer M.

- Q. What brought you into the rooms of N.A?
A. Was ashamed to go back to CA after I relapsed so a friend brought me to NA
- Q. What keeps you coming back?
A. The friends I've made there like family
- Q. What service work have you done in the past year or so?
A. Was the treasurer of RTR, opened and set up meetings and chaired them even did the meetings once a month a detox
- Q. What has been your greatest challenge in the last year?
A. Both my girls attempting suicide a few months apart was the hardest challenge for my but my NA family was there to help me get through it I wasn't alone

TO ALL THE FRIENDS OF JIMMY K. Submitted by Wesley A. K.

Happy Holiday's every one , and remember , someone out there may have a rough time during this period , Please be supportive and Loving .

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the hall
Not a member was stirring, nor sought alcohol
Coffee and cookies were set out with care:
More N.A. members soon would be there.
Each grateful member with no trace of vanity,
Gave thanks to the Power that restores us to sanity.
The leader of the meeting, like all who have missions,
Passed out the readings and I got the Traditions
In parking a car, some bumpers were hit,
The man who was wrong did promptly admit
And so to our grateful eyes did appear
Our famous guest speaker, loved far and near.
More rapid than eagles, the members then came;
He hugged them and kissed them and called them by name:
Hi Alice; 'Lo Jimmy; God love you Harry....
Betty and Carol and Birthday boy Larry!
Again we all settle, ready to share
The leader of the meeting led the Serenity Prayer.
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky
So up with our clean time, the members they flew,
With Twelve Steps to follow, Twelve Traditions too.
The Seventh Tradition inevitably came.
The leader then called on our speaker by name...
He wore his red suit, a fur cap and no tie,
But soon let us know with a wink of his eye,
That Christmas for us, we must not be some thug
It only means staying away from the first drug.
A bundle of joys, he told us we'd find.
"Read the Basic Text for true peace of mind".
At the end of the meeting, he led the Prayer
and gave us the word: "Continue to share".
Bu I heard him exclaim as he picked up his pack
Don't ever forget, "To Keep Coming Back"..

Q. How did you deal with that challenge?

A. I reached out to friends from NA and hung out with them

Q. What do you suggest for the newcomer or those who are still struggling?

A. There will be good days and bad days don't give up believe in yourself your a lot stronger then you think u r. Get numbers and don't b scared to call someone and don't ever think yr a burden if u do yr not if it wasn't for people in NA doing this for me I wouldn't b here.

Q. Any final thoughts?

A. NA stands for NEVER ALONE NEVER AGAIN



Thanks to Narcotics Anonymous, we are never alone.

All Submissions, Enquiries, and Comments welcome at any time. Please forward to newsline@mascna.org

Next deadline for *time-sensitive* submissions is Jan 20th. **YOU** can receive a FREE electronic copy of this Newsletter by forwarding your email address to:

newsline@mascna.org *Material or wording in this newsletter is not necessarily the opinion of MASC or Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. All Submissions become the property of the Newsline, which reserves the right to edit to facilitate publishing and ensure the NA message is carried. Articles will be printed anonymously upon request.