



# Manitoba Area Newsline



October 2019 Issue 10/19

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## Attracting and Encouraging Leaders

Excerpt from the Principles and Leadership in NA Service Booklet

Our success in reaching still-suffering addicts depends completely on the members who step up and get involved. It has been said that ten percent of the people do ninety percent of the work in NA, but we believe we can do better to attract more members to get involved. Our recovery program calls upon all of us to carry our message to still-suffering addicts. Inspired by an awakening of the spirit and the gift of recovery we have been given, we are able to see the opportunity to serve as both a privilege and a responsibility. Members come into NA service with a variety of skills and backgrounds that can be useful to our efforts. With that in mind, when we choose leaders we should pay special attention to leadership qualities based on our principles, such as integrity and humility, as well as communication and organizational skills. While there are many styles of leadership, the type that is most useful in NA service is based on the spiritual principles found in our steps, traditions, and concepts. When we serve—and lead—with these principles in mind, we make service more attractive for all members. At times our service bodies can be disorganized and stressful. Members who take positions or just attend a committee meeting to see what it is about can leave frustrated and dispirited. We have a collective responsibility to infuse our service bodies with an atmosphere of recovery where people feel welcome and encouraged to grow. In such an atmosphere, our trusted servants are more likely to feel effective and productive, and our service bodies grow stronger.

When we put aside our personality differences and work together to develop the best qualities in our members who are willing to serve, our areas, regions, and subcommittees become fertile ground for cultivation. Having skilled leaders who embody our principles will go a long way to help us better cultivate leadership among other trusted servants. Such cultivation will benefit not only those who demonstrate natural leadership qualities, but any members who are willing to serve. All too often, members who would otherwise be willing to get involved in service can be put off by overwhelmingly extensive policies and procedures or tiresome debates and parliamentary gymnastics. Simple solutions such as having a tradition- and concept-study meeting before business meetings or conducting service learning days can help raise knowledge and awareness of our guiding principles. By discussing these principles together, our trusted servants can work toward common understandings of how to apply them in service environments. This will help us avoid many common challenges in our service efforts. An inviting atmosphere encourages members to contribute what they can, rather than to feel overwhelmed or under-qualified. When trusted servants who are well-versed in our guiding principles hold positions of leadership, we often find that we can move from a culture of rigid guidelines and debate to one with more open discussion, inclusion, cooperation, and consensus-building.

<b>FELLOWSHIP SERVICE - UNITY</b>
<b>October 5<sup>th</sup></b> 1:00 pm
<b>Workshop - Learning Day Information Exchange</b> An Opportunity for The Manitoba Area Fellowship to exchange information and share concerns, questions, suggestions.
<b>430 Langside St</b>

## Our Freedom, Our Responsibility

- **Responsibility for fulfilling our primary purpose lies with us.**
- **When services suffer, groups are limited in their ability to reach still-suffering addicts.**
- **Service helps free us from self-obsession by shifting our focus from ourselves to others.**
- **Other members served for us; now we can make recovery possible for someone else.**

## October Announcements, Events and Birthday Celebrations

- **Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Robert R. – 35 years at Equinox @ 7:30pm; 195 Collegiate St.
- **Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>** – Aaron F. – 8 years at Foundation for Freedom @ 6:30pm; 400 Edmonton St
- **Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Kevin S. – 1 year at Road to Recovery; 7pm @ 146 Magnus St.
- **Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>** – George M. – 32 years at Equinox; 7:30pm @ 195 Collegiate St.
- **Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - – There is a Fellowship Service Unity workshop learning day at 430 Langside St. at 1:00pm. Please see the poster on the front page of this newsletter
  - – Joseph S. – 3 years at SOS; 7:00pm @ 125 Sherbrook St.
- **Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>** – MASC (Manitoba Area Service Committee) meets at 12 noon @ 430 Langside St. There are many positions open. All interested recovering addicts are encouraged to attend to ask questions, find out how you can get involved.
- **Awesome update on H&I...**all panels were filled last month and this month as well! Thank you all who helped fill these spots.

## JFT Reading for December 17<sup>th</sup> From NA literature "Just For Today"

### December 17

### Service motives

*"Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers."*

Basic Text, p. xvi

Our motives are often a surprise to us. In our early days of recovery, they were almost *always* a surprise! We've learned to check our motives through prayer, meditation, the steps, and talking to our sponsor or other addicts. When we find ourselves with an especially strong urge to do or have something, it's particularly important to check our motives to find out what we *really* want.

In early recovery, many of us throw ourselves into service with great fervor before we have started the regular practice of motive-checking. It takes awhile before we become aware of the real reasons for our zeal. We may want to impress others, show off our talents, or be recognized and important. Now, these desires may not be harmful in another setting, expressed through another outlet. In NA service, however, they can do serious damage.

When we decide to serve NA, we make a decision to help addicts find and maintain recovery. We have to carefully check our motives in service, remembering that it's much easier to frighten away using addicts than to convince them to stay. When we show them game-playing, manipulation, or pomposity, we present an unattractive picture of recovery. However, the unselfish desire to serve others creates an atmosphere that is attractive to the addict who still suffers.

**Just for today:** I will check my motives for the true spirit of service.

## Canadian Convention Of Narcotics Anonymous



## The Adventure

September 18, 19 & 20, 2020  
Winnipeg, MB

Early Bird tickets are available. For registration information, pricing or how to get involved click this link to the website:

<https://canadianconvention.com/>

# Newsline Newsline Announcement Announcement

Are you creative? Familiar with the computer? Have experience with creating documents? Have email? Looking for a starter position in area service? Have one year clean?

If you answered yes to these questions, then I have great news for you! There is an opportunity here with Newsline. I will be open to training and helping anyone who is interested in filling this position for the next term. As much as I love doing the Newsline and believe it to be a very important part in keeping our fellowship informed and connected, I have decided to step down from Newsline Chair as of September 2020 to pursue other service commitments within our area. If you are interested in more information or to talk to me about how to get started with training, please email me at [newsline@mascna.org](mailto:newsline@mascna.org) and I will be happy to share my experience and information with you.

All Submissions, Inquiries, and Comments welcome at any time. Please forward to [newsline@mascna.org](mailto:newsline@mascna.org)

Next deadline for the November issue is October 20<sup>th</sup>. **YOU** can receive a FREE electronic copy of this Newsletter by forwarding your email address to: [newsline@mascna.org](mailto: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.