

# COMMON NEEDS MEETINGS: THE ETERNAL DEBATE



# WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BULLETIN #18

There does not appear to be anything in the Twelve Traditions which inhibits groups from holding special interest meetings, provided that the group has no requirement for membership other than the desire to stop using. Special Interest meetings tend to survive and flourish in local NA communities where there is a need and desire for such meetings and do not exist in NA communities where there is no need nor desire. In Narcotics Anonymous, the World Service Conference does not have the authority to dictate policy to groups, and regional and area service committees do not have policy making authority over the decisions of their groups. The only authority present in the groups is a loving God expressed in a group's conscience.

*report that was delivered to the World Service Conference at its annual meeting in April 1989 by the WSC Ad Hoc Committee on Special Interest Meetings.*



“We need not fear the differences that make up our membership. In fact, the more strength we have as individuals, the stronger NA as a whole will be when we join together in our common purpose. When we surrender our individual wills to NA’s ultimate authority—a loving God—we tap into the strength of a power greater than our own.”



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IN THIS ISSUE

# Get ready for San Jose!

## Largest NA meeting ever expected at WCNA-27 this September

As the summer season comes to a close in Northern California this year, thousands of addicts from all over the world will be arriving. Could it be a Sixties revival? A Summer of Love reunion? No, but close. It's the Twenty-Seventh World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous! Up until 1996, the world convention was an annual event. Now it's biennial; that is, it only happens every two years. Perhaps because of this, members have been anticipating this convention with more enthusiasm than has ever been shown toward a world convention. Registrations began flooding the World Service Office within hours of the convention flyer's distribution to the fellowship. The pre-registration pace is about twenty percent ahead of what it was for the 24th World Convention, held in 1994 in Baltimore, Maryland. To date, that has been the largest world convention, with 10,597 paid registrations and approximately 2,400 newcomer registrations. We expect attendance at the world convention in San Jose to far exceed those numbers. The theme of the convention, "Our Diversity is Our Strength," will be reflected in the sheer variety of addicts in attendance. For those who have been to a world convention, no explanation is neces-





## *A brief* **History of NAYC**

NAYC was founded in Marin County, Ca. in **May of 1996**. Soon after, within a few months, San Francisco started their own NAYC.

**By 1997** NAYC was in Marin, San Francisco, Peninsula, and San Jose. It was also in this year that NAYC decided to form a Joint-Area NAYC, incorporating all those in existence. A motion was submitted to the R.S.C. that NAYC be recognized as an Ad-Hoc Committee of the R.S.C. The motion had passed.

**In 1998** (approximately one year later) the *Regional NAYC Ad-Hoc Committee* had submitted a motion at the R.S.C. that they be recognized as a standing sub-committee of the R.S.C. The motion had passed.

**By 1998**, NAYC grew to include Sonoma County, East Bay North, East Bay Central, and Contra Costa. Unfortunately,

**In 1999** support for the committees in regards to member attendance was dwindling and threatened the very existence of NAYC as a whole. Several of our committees were forced to fold, including San Jose, Peninsula, East Bay North, Contra Costa, East Bay Central, and eventually by a new motion submitted at the R.S.C., the *Regional NAYC Sub-Committee*.

**In 2002**, Marin County was forced to fold as well due to lack of membership.

**In 2003**, the San Francisco ASC voted also to disband their NAYC. But it was also in this year that the Marin County NAYC developed a new case of inspiration and restarted the committee.

**In 2004**, the Contra Costa NAYC restarted.

**Currently**, there are only three known NAYC's in existence, Marin, Sonoma, and Contra Costa Counties. All three are growing and experiencing tremendous support. The Joint-Area NAYC has since restarted. We hope to re-ignite the fire of NAYC throughout the Northern California Region, and perhaps even beyond.





*Diversity doesn't only mean making NA's message more accessible to those from various cultures, races, ages, languages, and so on. It also includes making NA's message more attractive to those who have used various drugs, or those from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds.*

## 2006 – 2008 Fellowship Issue Discussions Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

The topics "diversity in NA," *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* and "common needs" are all about carrying NA's message to those we haven't yet reached. Diversity is about making NA more attractive to anyone who might benefit from our message—whether they are addicts from various races and cultures, or addicts of a certain age or professional background. We believe that reaching a broader range of addicts will not only strengthen our fellowship, but will more accurately reflect the nature of our disease. Just as addiction knows no limits, our purpose is to share NA's message of recovery with everyone. These topics can help to support our unity and increase our ability to reach those who feel they don't belong in NA.

In the July issue of *The NA Way Magazine*, we began outlining the 2006-2008 Issue Discussion Topic *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?* We will continue this discussion in a series of articles over the next two years. The topic *Who Is Missing?* comes from the fellowshipwide discussions we have had over the last four years about a group's atmosphere of recovery. These discussions asked us to review how we can make our groups more welcoming and attractive. Now, we will begin to focus on the larger topic of diversity in NA and the related discussion of common needs. We hope some of the information here will help us all continue to have conversations about ways to strengthen our ability to attract those missing from NA.

### Diversity in NA

Our literature states that "our diversity is our strength," and this has been a touchstone in our discussions about the topic of diversity in NA. When we embrace the principle of diversity, we reach a broader range of addicts because they hear an NA message with which they can identify. Many of us have experienced what it feels like to be the only addict at a meeting who looks a certain way, or who comes from a particular background. We know that addiction cuts across all segments of society. Our hope now is that recovery in NA can better embrace all segments of society.

Our primary purpose is to carry NA's message to all addicts, not only addicts with whom we feel comfortable. This topic asks us to look beyond the group of addicts with whom we are already comfortable. One approach to this is considering ways to include those who may seem unlike us. We can ask ourselves, "Do we display favoritism toward those who used certain drugs?" "Do our home groups successfully reach a variety of addicts in our community?"

### Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

In many ways, we are having this dialogue now because, as a fellowship, we've seen success and growth over the past years. We are attracting more and more members and have become more diverse than ever before. There are still many





# TRADITION 1 "IT WORKS HOW AND WHY"

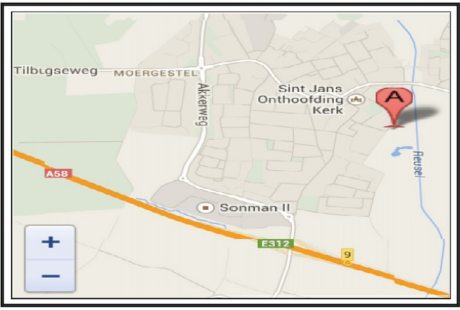
The unity described in our First Tradition is not the same thing as uniformity. Our membership is richly varied, made up of many addicts from widely differing backgrounds. These members bring with them a variety of ideas and talents. That diversity enriches the fellowship and gives rise to new and creative ways to reach addicts who need our help. Our purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers—allows room for everyone to serve. When we unite in support of this purpose, our differences need no longer detract from our common welfare. Working together for our mutual well-being is a significant source of unity in Narcotics Anonymous.



# FRANCE LGBTQIA+








**DIRECTIONS:**

**By car:**  
1. exit 4 Moergestel 200 m  
2. go left to Schoolstraat  
(signs to Moergestel/Oisterwijk)  
after the round-about go straight ahead for 750m.  
3. go right to De Schoenen 140 m  
4. take the first left at Bosstraat there you are.

**By Public Transport:**  
take bus 141 at station Tilburg to Best, get out at rand-  
huisstraat, walk back for 30m till postelstraat  
straight ahead till the bosstraat there you are.

**Contact:**  
**Chris:** +31681387822 (Chairmen)  
**Maurice:** +31636171463 (Program)



**1st. DUTCH  
YOUTH  
CONVENTION**

Please Pre-Register:  
NAYPY@gmail.com

**NO AGE RESTRICTIONS**

**DATE:**  
26&27 July 2014

**LOCATION:**  
Bosstraat 1A 5066BE  
Moergestel

**ENTREE: (Food & Sleeping included)**  
for info about staying over see registration mail.

day 1:	
time:	Program
12:30	Registration
14:00 15:00	openinas share
15:15 16:15	Young in recovery for the parents and guardians of young addict
16:30 17:30	Relatie's
17:30 20:30	Bar Be Que
20:30 22:30	FIREPIT
22:30 till late	DANCE

day 2:	
time:	Program
10:00 11:15	Breakfast
11:30 12:30	Higher Power
12:45 14:00	L.U.N.C.H.
14:00 15:00	Growing up clean
15:15 16:15	Closing Share
16:15	Countdown
	Cleaning Up/ Chill Out




**WE HERSTELLEN ECHTIVAL**  
Eenheid door verbondenheid

**6 & 7 AUG. 2016**

**NA JONGERENCONVENTIE**

MEETINGS - SPREKERS - BBQ - ZWEMMEN - KAMPVUUR - YOGA - MEDITATIE - MUZIEK  
- 800 METER LOPEN NS STATION - AANMELDEN (OOK VOOR SERVICE) ->  
NAjongerenconventie2016@outlook.com  
WEEKENDTICKET €35,- DAGTICKET€15,- TICKETS INCL. ETEN & DRINKEN  
TIJDEN: ZAT 13:00 t/m ZON 15:30 - NIEUWKOMERSFONDS!



**26 / 27 / 28 Juli 2019**

**Youth Never  
Walk Alone**

 Jongerenconventie 2019



**2021  
YOUTH CONVENTION  
JONGEREN CONVENTIE**

**in Recovery**

**20, 21 & 22  
augustus  
2021**

**Tickets:**  
Dagkaart € 27,50  
Weekend:  
- Binnen kampeerplek €55  
- Buiten kampeerplek €50

**Tickets:**  
One day € 27,50  
Weekend:  
- Indoor campingplace €55  
- Outdoor campingplace €50

Contact: jongerenconventie2021@protonmail.com  
Facebook groep : N.A. Jongerenconventie 2020  
TEL: +31622786358 or +31617680150



**Narcotics Anonymous  
Nederland**

**Jongerenconventie 2024**  
9 t/m 11 augustus | Ellertshaar Drenthe

**THEMAVERGADERING**  
24 januari | 19:00 uur

In de eerstvolgende vergadering zullen we het **thema** gaan bepalen voor de **conventie**.  
Wil je **meedenken**? Wil je **service** doen?  
Sluit dan aan bij de vergadering via Zoom!

Ook zijn wij nog op zoek naar (alt-)voorzitters voor onderstaande subcomités:

- Promotie (alt)
- Fundraising (voorzitter + alt)
- Locatie (alt)
- Techniek (voorzitter + alt)
- Decoratie (voorzitter + alt)
- Vrijwilligers (voorzitter + alt)
- Food & Drinks (voorzitter + alt)
- Programma & hospitality (alt)

Voor meer info, contact  
Klenda: 06-48807000  
Jan: 06-18849744

<https://bit.ly/na-regio> | Zoom ID: 571 580 7587 | Password: 1953



**Let it  
BEGIN  
WITH ME**

**9 T/M 11 AUGUSTUS**  
**ELLERTSHAAR - DRENTHE**



NARCOTIQUES ANONYMES

CONVENTION LGBTQIA+

QUATRIÈME ÉDITION

5 MAI 2024

GOD SAVE THE QUEERS



10H 18H

78 RUE COMPANS 75019 PARIS

ZOOM ID: 145 115 086 MDP: 1212

ZOOM

 [NALGBTQIAPLUS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NALGBTQIAPLUS@GMAIL.COM)

[NALGBTQIAPLUS.ORG](http://NALGBTQIAPLUS.ORG)

CONVENTION OUVERTE A TOUSTES

CONVENTION LGBTQIA+ 3ÈME EDITION

LES LIENS QUI NOUS UNISSENT



16 AVRIL 10H-18H

35-37 RUE DES FRANCS BOURGEOIS 75004 PARIS

ZOOM ID: 145 115 086 MP: 1212

NARCOTIQUES ANONYMES

LGBTQIAPLUS@NARCOTIQUESANONYMES.ORG

CONTACT

NALGBTQIAPLUS.ORG



NARCOTIQUES ANONYMES

Problème de drogue ?

Journée de rencontres

LGBTQIA+

Réunions, atelier, espaces d'information, d'écoute et de partage

T 0143721272

www.nalgbtqiaplus.org

lgbtqiaplus@narcotiquesanonymes.org

8 MAI 22 11H - 19H

35-37, rue des francs-bourgeois 75004 Paris

Zoom ID 145 115 086 MP 1212

SOUS-COMITE LGBTQIA+



DIMANCHE 28 NOVEMBRE 2021 11H / 19H

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

MESSAGES DE RÉTABLISSEMENT

ATELIERS DE SERVICES

35/37 RUE DES FRANCS-BOURGEOIS, 75004 PARIS

27-29 JUNE 2025

1ST EUROPEAN LGBTQIA+ CONVENTION OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

HOSTED BY THE LGBTQIA+ COMMITTEE OF NA FRANCE

PARIS

FRI 27 JUNE : WELCOME MEETINGS

SAT 28 JUNE : IP PRIDE MARCH, MEETINGS, RECOVERY WALK

SUN 29 JUNE : CONVENTION, TALENT SHOW, LIVING CLEAN PARTY



# DISCUSSION IN GROUPS - 30 MIN

- We are going to split into 4 groups.
- Each group will have 1 question.
- Each group will pick a chair and a secretary.
- The chair will make sure all members participate in the discussion.
- At the end, the chair or secretary will share the results of each group.
- There are no wrong answers!
- Listening is an act of respect for others.
- Be sure that everyone participates; don't dominate.
- Don't forget our Fifth Tradition; We all love NA!
- Stay focused on the subject at hand.
- To disagree without being disagreeable... that is OUR process!
- Avoid repetition.



1. Who are we missing in our effort to make everyone feel welcome and how can we include them?
2. How do we address conflicts regarding common needs meetings?
3. Are there some addicts we think we cannot reach?
4. What reservations do we have about reaching out?



Share your story!

& LIVING CLEAN IN FULL  
FINDING RECOVERY COLOR  
IN NA as an LGBTQIA+ addict in recovery

fd@edmna.org

## Young Addicts In Recovery

These are our stories  
about how we stopped  
using early in life and  
stayed clean in the  
rooms of NA

For more information  
[www.edmna.org](http://www.edmna.org)



# REFERENCES

World Service Board Of Trustees Bulletin #18

2006 – 2008 Fellowship Issue Discussions Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

NA Way July 1998

The NAYC Mission Statement

Living Clean Chapter 2 – The Ties that Bind: Connection to Others p.37

Young in Recovery – EDM website

LGBTQIA+ Convention and call for e-book contributions – EDM website