



Inclusive Or Exclusive

Inclusive or exclusive needs not to be a question in any NA meeting ever but it is.

This is why there is always conflict about special interest meetings, they engender exclusivity.

I am not going there because NA has spoken and allows them. However it is a violation of most of the 12 Traditions the ways our meetings are run it the context of unity. I will say it again for those who are of the rebut mind. In the context of NA Unity it is a violation of the Traditions.

How would you feel being a newcomer and they said, "you are the most important person in the meeting." But each week the same person or couple of people lead the meeting, and do everything else in the meeting leaving you feel that you are not a part of once again because no one asks you to participate. Participating might include greeting fellow members at the door handing out clean time key tags.

When I was a new newcomer lead meetings all the time while having a more experienced member sitting next to them to guide them the first few times. The new-



comer may be urged to help before, during and after the meeting: emptying ashtrays, making coffee, refilling coffee cups and greeting members at the door. We were glad to welcome the newcomer home by these actions.

It seems like we have 90% open discussion meetings and a 90% fail rate, so why not have more speaker and Basic Text meetings so we can practice listening and learning in our recovery more and knowing it is not about me. I for the most part do not go to meetings any longer for me; I go to share my experience, strength and hope like the old-timers did in my day. This article is not me whining but an attempt to get you to change. I have been around long enough to know that God will make the needed changes and I will just share my experience, strength and hope as it was done for me.

Here's another, "Our meet-

ing needs support! Please come to our meeting so it doesn't fold!" I would not be attracted to that meeting. Hey our meeting rocks and we

have a blast in recovery and we invite you to come and visit us and have a great time in recovery! That is the spirit of attraction that we operate within the lines of the 12 Traditions as it is a matter of attraction not promotion. We Do Recover!

Because we have 90% newcomers and they are the most important people, we might consider having more Basic Text meetings and teaching them to work all 12 steps with at least the same amount of energy they put into using? Use phone numbers of clean practicing Addicts like they used drugs?

My point is simply this;

Our Basic Text is the beginning point and foundation of our entire program of recovery. And it says in the last page of the Preface this: Everything we do in NA MUST be motivated by the desire to more effectively carry our message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.

Is your home group living this to the best of their ability? Or are you homeless? Is your Sponsor teaching you to work all 12 steps daily as our Basic Text states? Or are you Sponsorless? If you do not have a Sponsor you have an idiot for a sponsor. Yeah I'd rather be unpopular than a people pleasing cosigning enabler. Its not how much you work this program that counts, its how much you live it, in your inner thought life, for as a man thinks, so is he.

In loving service, David R. Tampa

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Father and Son Clean in the Rooms

I know when I finally hit bottom there was nowhere left to go except to change. I know I was sick and tired of being sick Northern New England News April 2010 and tired, burnt out, and having nothing I knew I had to change. I was about to give up. I could not keep a job; my wife was ready to ship me out. My wife and I started seeing substance abuse counselors.

Both counselors told me to try NA meetings. I told them "forget it!" Finally after my third heart attack, my doctor told me I better clean up my act. That

is when I said "I guess I will try these meetings and see if they can help." I went; I listened and nearly

got up halfway through the meeting and left. I talked to addicts after and they told me to "keep coming back."

I went back, did 90 meet-

ing. While I was trying to change my ways so was my son. My son had become addicted to narcotics and had lost a good job. He had to go to detox. It took him



ings in 90 days as was suggested to me. I met the one who is my sponsor today and another man who took me to my first NA retreat up in Maine. It was a whole new awaken-

a couple of times to kick it. Meetings every day and night was what he had to do.

While we were both getting clean neither one of us knew the other one was going to NA. It's great to know we can do things and not need to have something that we have to get. My son and his wife have graced me with a wonderful grandson.

We both have received our five year medallions in the past year. He got his medallion at Thanksgiving and I received mine on 1/10/2010. He came up from Boston to present me with mine.

How it Works



We should make amends[®] when the opportunity presents itself, except when to do so will cause more harm. Sometimes we cannot actually make the amends; it is neither possible nor practical. In some cases, amends may be beyond our means. We find that willingness can serve in the place of action where we are unable to contact the person that we have harmed. However, we should never fail to contact anyone because of embarrassment, fear or procrastination.

We want to be free of our guilt, but we don't wish to do so at the expense of anyone else.

Basic Text p. 39

NA On The Web

Tampa Funcoast Area
www.Tampa-NA.org

World Services
www.NA.org

Florida Regional
www.naflorida.org

We go to conventions, speaker jams, and other NA events together. We share smiles from being happy, joyous and free.

The whole thing is we never told each other we got clean till after we did it. I thank God, Higher Power, and the Fellowship of NA for saving this addict's life. Addict -NNER

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the April 2010 Northern New England News Newsletter.



Tampa Funcoast Anniversaries

12 Step Sisters

Brandi M. 3/31/1991
Diann C. 4/5/2003
Cassandra V. 4/27/2009

A New Way

Mike H. 4/21/2003
Steve F. 4/23/2005
Ashley H. 4/4/2006
Sandra D. 4/22/2008

Addict Salvation

Sheryl K. 4/12/1991
Francis P. 3/10/2009
Denise P. 3/10/2009
Lisa E. 4/23/2009

Brandon At Noon

Diana K. 4/17/1991
Eric B. 4/1/1997
Joe V. 4/10/2006
Julie C. 4/11/2007
Lee L. 3/20/2009
Alysia F. 4/11/2009
Phil A. 4/13/2009
Asley . 4/18/2009
Nicole C. 4/28/2009

Breakfast Club

Lynne A. 3/18/2009

Choices

Christine S. 3/19/1996

Daily Recovery

Tony F. 3/5/2005
Lauca . 3/7/2005
Sharon J. 3/29/2008
Tony F. 3/29/2008
Casey C. 3/3/2009
Kim C. 3/3/2009
Carmelita E. 3/4/2009

Emergency Room

Kenya G. 3/1/2007
Ryan S. 4/10/2009
Phil A. 4/13/2009
Aron R. 4/29/2010

Free To Be Me

Meredith D. 3/29/1989

Victor C. 3/21/1998
Michael . 4/2/2002
Bud F. 3/7/2010
Tim C. 3/28/2010

Fresh Start Group

Anne D. 3/28/2007

Grow Or Go

Sally O. 3/12/1985
Starr B. 4/11/1987
Starr B. 4/11/1987
Lee O. 3/14/2001
Joe H. 3/27/2001
Tim S. 3/17/2003
Leigh R. 3/21/2008
Brenda K. 3/21/2008
Susan G. 4/30/2009

Happy Hour

Joe S. 4/10/2006

High Hopes

Donald D. 3/1/1998

High Lie

Vicki L. 3/2/2006
Amy A. 3/8/2006

Hope In Recovery

Tony F. 3/5/2005

In The Middle

Sam . 4/4/2006

La Ultima Parada

Fernando M. 4/5/2005
Carlos V. 4/26/2007
Ismael C. 3/20/2009

More Hope

Lamark L. 3/24/2010
Nelco C. 3/27/2010
Sarah M. 3/28/2010

NA 180

Ron H. 4/20/2003
John B. 4/23/2005
Lynne A. 3/18/2009

NA Speaker Meeting

Audrey C. 4/9/1994

NAIL

Laura M. 3/9/2010

Never Too Young To Recover

Jesse L. 3/12/1993
Mark W. 3/11/2009
Chyrstal B. 4/19/2009

New Bite Of Serenity

Keith C. 3/8/1991
Nora M. 4/5/1999
Julius L. 3/30/2000
Tracy K. 3/13/2006
Colin C. 3/25/2008
Gretchen B. 3/3/2009

New Tampa NA

Brandi M. 3/31/1991
Darrin F. 3/3/2006
Darren F. 3/30/2006
Collin C. 3/25/2008

Newbite Of Serenity

Julius L. 3/30/2000

Quest For Serenity

Scotty D. 4/5/1995

Radical Recovery

Willie M. 4/5/1995

Recovery

Bobby R. 4/22/2002

Recovery Central

Gordon N. 4/11/1983
Bobby R. 4/22/2002
Jessica S. 4/30/2008

Recovery On The Northside

Susan F. 3/19/1988
Susan F. 3/19/1988

Renegade Recovery

Bob E. 4/19/1991
Rise For Recovery
Sharon J. 3/29/2008

Saturday Night Live

Sylvia M. 3/20/2006

Annversaries Continued Next Page



Poetry&Thoughts

How Do WE Serve?

We serve on subcommittees, we open up the halls.
 We're the ones who make the coffee or go on 12th step calls.
 We're speak at the conventions, we serve behind the scenes.
 We're the ones who stay behind, to make sure we leave it clean.
 We chair our daily meetings, we carry H& I.
 We greet you at the door, and hold you while you cry.
 We listen to you on the phone late into the night;
 let you know you're not alone, and that it will be alright.
 We put the chairs and pamphlets out, hand out the key tags too;
 And this is just a little taste of all the things we do.
 How do we really serve?
 We show real love to our families, and to the gang at work.
 We have patience when we get cut off,
 instead of yelling, "Stupid Jerk!"
 We are witnesses to God's wondrous love, and it shows in our
 lives,
 Through the gratitude we spread around to our children and our
 wives.
 Our lives may not be perfect, but we're happy anyway.
 Real serenity we're finding, and share throughout our day.
 We reach out with our hearts and prayers to the corners of this
 earth
 Hoping that folks realize just how much this life is worth.
 We approach each day as a sacred gift full of lessons to be
 learned
 These are just a sample of the ways we really serve.

John H.

Sunset At Sonrise Lutz

Laura M. 3/9/2010

Sunset Solutions

Joe D. 3/17/1984

Sandra D. 4/25/2008

The Sanctuary

Barry H. 3/15/2000

Together We Can

Pat B. 3/2/2004

Pat B. 3/2/2004

Anne D. 3/28/2007

TTNA

John B. 3/23/2005

Uptown Group NA

Dennis M. 4/30/2002

Danny M. 4/30/2000

Manny P. 4/18/2006

War Is Over

Victoria L. 3/26/2002

Victoria L. 3/26/2002

Rametha E. 3/11/2003

Jamie Z. 3/3/2005

RJ K.

4/27/2007

Amy O. 3/13/2009

Shauna R. 3/7/2010

Angie M. 3/9/2010

Kristina S. 3/26/2010

Women Do Recover

Karon G. 3/27/2009

Women Of Freedom

Bertha B. 4/27/2007

Women's Hope

Jodi B. 4/19/1986

Evelyn V. 3/28/1989

Ninnah R. 4/6/1990

Selena M. 3/30/1999

Tammie A. 3/11/2002

Vicki L. 3/2/2006

Terri E. 4/27/2008

Torrie E. 4/27/2008

Meghan P. 3/12/2009

Lynne A. 3/18/2009

Meredith L. 3/27/2009

Cassandra V. 4/27/2009

Elaine D. 4/27/2009

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