



Inniú

**A Newsletter for
NA in Ireland**

Fifth Edition
October 2011

Beyond Our Wildest Dreams



This Newsletter is NOT official NA Literature, it is a forum for Irish Members to share their experience, strength and hope. All input is the wide and varied personal experience of NA members, and does not represent NA.

There is a section on the NA Ireland website (www.na-ireland.org) “locally produced literature / service material.” There you will find the Irish Parents and Carers handbook, NA Ireland Strategic Plan, a history of NA literature. You can download and use any of these materials at workshops etc. There is also all issues of the newsletter. If you would like to be on a mailing list so we can let you know when a new issue is out, contact at:

literature@na-ireland.org

In fellowship, Irene C. Regional Literature Chairperson

Parents and Carers Regional Subcommittee: We will be holding a workshop at the Regional Convention and running the crèche. Plans for new meetings in Jobstown are underway. We are currently looking for an ad hoc chairperson. For more info contact Mary C.: 087-679-6507.

The Regional Delegate and Alternate are available to run workshops in any area or even on any Issue Discussion Topics. For a full list of these so to www.na.org : IDT

BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS: NA only *promises* us a life free from active addiction, if we work the programme. But the reality is through working the programme, as it says in our literature, we come to know happiness, joy, and freedom. Lost dreams awaken and new possibilities arise. In the following pages a few members share their experience, strength and hope on this topic.

Cover art: Mark G., Dublin

Back photo: Tor C, Kerry

“Dreams we gave up long ago can now become realities”

Basic Test

It's the second Sunday in September who would have thought that only last Sunday I was at World Convention in San Diego 2 hours away from where I live in Los Angeles. I'm back in LA now, getting ready to leave for a meeting at the boy's home. It's a youth prison here in Los Angeles. I'm the guest speaker this evening, I've spoken there before and always walk out feeling grateful. The prisoners are made to attend NA meetings at that facility. If only they knew what the program had to offer. I'm going to share with them about my life and my recovery, only a dozen years ago I was in a similar place 6000 miles away in Ireland. The disease we suffer from is the same though, and so is the solution.

I'm going to tell them that I used to be in jail and that I used to be addicted to drugs too, when I was their age. But I haven't been in jail for many years, since before I got clean in NA. I now know I never have to go back there again because I've found recovery and integrated this simple program into my life and experienced a profound transformation. I want to carry a message to them that it's not them personally but a disease wreaking havoc through their lives that should be arrested and not them.

I am going to share that a life beyond their wildest dreams awaits if they can just keep coming back, just like the life I've lived since getting clean, "lost dreams awaken new possibilities arise". People in NA loved me and told me that in recovery anything is possible. I was hopeless before coming in the door of NA and it was only when I was truly beaten did my mind and heart open and I became willing to do something about my problem. My recovery and its success were up to me, I had to take my own power back and the program empowered me to do that. My higher power was the key, and the steps brought me to unlock recovery.

I came into NA when I was 22, members loved me the NA way and I stayed clean. They told me in NA you can do whatever you want in your life if you're willing put the work in, meet your higher power halfway and take care of your side of things. This way the results are up to your higher power.

Then one day after many years of training consistently and staying clean I found myself in the Olympic stadium. I had a badge around my neck. I picked it up and it said my name and written below that it said "Athlete". NA believed in me until I could learn how to believe in myself. I don't have to use today because in recovery anything is possible.

Terry F., 12 years Clean, Los Angeles, formerly of Dublin

When I first got into NA I was told I could achieve things beyond my wildest dreams. I didn't quite believe it. There was damage that was irreparable, things that could never be OK.

When I was 16 I got pregnant with my first boyfriend. We were hanging out in the park, running away from home and living a bit of hippie life and the "soft" drugs that included. I thought we were going to get married and live happily ever after. My parents had a different idea and I was put in an unmarried mother's convent in the country and the baby was given up for adoption. This was 1979 and while I was waiting for my partner to come rescue me "hard" drugs came on the scene. He never came. He never got free of drugs and hung himself in prison years later. Nearly all of the people we hung out with died over drugs as well. I didn't get over the loss of the baby, and during the next 13 years of active addiction, it was one of the things I would use on.

Then I found NA. In NA I learned about responsibility, about doing what we can and letting go of the results. I learned about forgiveness of myself and others. I learned that accepting the things we cannot not change does not mean giving up - It means we can still ask for courage to change the things we can.

So I decided to do what I could to find my son. I went to a birthmother's support group, I found out my legal rights, I went to see social workers and the adoption agency. They finally let me write a letter which was sent on to his adoptive parents. They immediately responded and a correspondence began. My son and I started exchanging letters and photos. Knowing that he was OK, happy, and seeing what he looked like, was already beyond my wildest dreams. I went travelling to India and while there had a dream that I walked into a shop, tapped someone on a shoulder, they turned around and it was my son. I decided to move back to Dublin after this. Three months later I walked into shop, tapped a sales man on the shoulder - and - it was my son. He recognized me from the pictures. It took me a few minutes to get my head around it. I had this image of us hugging and a tearful reunion - it wasn't like that. This was a grown man, and a stranger. We were both in shock and I just said "Do you want to get a cup of coffee."

That was 10 years ago. He is 30 now and has been in my life consistently since. We get on great and speak every week. We have a lot in common and spend time together on a regular basis. He knows all my family and I know all of his. I now believe that he had the best life possible for all concerned. I'm sorry his birth father didn't live to see this, he knew NA but never surrendered. If it wasn't for NA none of this would have happened, I wouldn't have found him, and I wouldn't be the kind of person that is an asset to his life today. I have no regrets, I just feel grateful and blessed. I would say to anyone today that ANYTHING is possible. Never give up.

Irene C., 18 years clean, Dublin

“We find ourselves doing and enjoying things that we never thought we would be doing”

Basic Text

My name is Chris and I'm an addict. I would like to share my experience with you people who have shown me a new way to live. My gratitude speaks when I care and share my recovery with you in NA. I have just been to the World Convention in San Diego, California and it has to be said, *“NA Rocks – We do Recover”*.

Nearly 20,000 addicts from all over the globe came together in the Spirit of Unity to celebrate their recovery. I was overwhelmed to see such a crowd turning up to the convention centre to pick up their pre-registration badges the day before it started. I arrived early to meet friends I had met previously at conventions, people from all walks of life at that. I found myself getting emotional at times, literally holding back the tears of joy as I experienced my second world convention. This time I was living the dream, the dream I had as a child before my addiction robbed me of so many dreams and opportunities. I was exactly where I was supposed to be in fact, because Narcotics Anonymous has given me the chance to recover lost dreams and plan for new ones.

There was lots of hugs and happy faces here, people I could not even remember their name but they too could remember me. I knew it was going to be a great convention as I was going to celebrate my 6th year in recovery along with some of my friends who were celebrating clean time birthdays too. It was something I have really enjoyed as it was very well organised in regards to the Speaker meetings, Workshops down to the Marathon meetings. There was so much for everyone to attend, it amazed me how hard it must have been to set up and make it all happen according to plan. Lots of hard work and planning went into this convention, that was very clear to me and the people who did service at it were so nice and welcoming. The addicts from San Diego itself were especially nice as they hosted such a celebration.

I found myself on my own many times but I didn't have that alone feeling, the feeling I felt here was the Unity and the love much talked about in Narcotics Anonymous. I did however feel that I was one of the few Irish attending addicts and at first I was a little upset that there wasn't so many Irish here but once I looked at where I was coming from it hit me, right then, I felt blessed to be one of the few, however it was nice to meet people from back home and to share the experience of a World Convention. They said recovery was beyond our wildest dreams and I too believe, it is beyond, as it is limitless, like the Higher Power. I just have to keep turning up.

Chris T, 6 years clean, Dublin

Literature News

Subscribe to **NA Way** at www.na.org/subscribe.

The **Service System** webpage is online www.na.org/servicesystem.

The approval draft of ***Living Clean: The Journey Continues*** is available for purchase for \$8.95. This book -length recovery piece based is members' experience of living a recovery journey. Some of the life topics covered are relationships, employment, moving in recovery, and spiritual growth. We encourage you to take the time to read the approval draft. It is going for approval at the 2012 WSC (April). It may also be viewed online at [www.na.org/?ID=Living Clean Project](http://www.na.org/?ID=Living+Clean+Project).

A draft of the new **Social Media** service pamphlet has been sent to conference participants for a 90-day review and input period, ending on 31 October. Contact your Regional Delegate for more info: regionaldelegate@na-ireland.org.

Issue Discussion Topics: Workshops are available to introduce members to new literature approved at the 2010 World Service Conference: These are: A Vision for NA Service; In Times of Illness, Revised; IP #24, Money Matters: Self-Support in NA; and IP #28, Funding NA Services. These workshops have been put together to help familiarise the fellowship with the new literature. Two of these will be held at the Regional Convention in October. Could also be facilitated in YOUR area. Contact: literature@na-ireland.org

Please attend the informative **H&I Workshop** to be held on the Sunday Morning of the convention, involving four areas.

Events

The **Irish Regional Convention** NA 2011 will be held at the Tower Hotel in Waterford from the 28-30 of October. See website for details.

The 28th **European Convention** of NA will take place August 2012 in Moscow. Its going to be really special, plan on making it! For info go to www.eccna27.org.

The **World Convention** (WCNA 34) was amazing—see Chris's account. 20,000 addicts in the Spirit of Unity. During Unity Day 120 countries were linked up to the closing meeting, as well as many prisons. H&I did great work and every prison in California was on board. As we connected via the telephone link with each group from San Quentin to Bogotá to Sydney, it was very emotional.

We also attended Bob Gs 50th NA Clean birthday party which was held there. He has the longest NA clean time in the world—he got clean in 1961, 9 years after NA was born and has been and active NA member ever since.

A world convention is an amazingly uplifting experience. The next one will be in 2013' in Philadelphia, where we will be celebrating NA's 60th birthday.

Some interesting upcoming international conventions, for more details go to the calendar at www.na.org:

Southern California Regional **Cruise** Committee: a convention on a cruise ship from Seattle to Alaska, August 26—Sept. 2, 2012. For info contact: groups@montrosetravel.com

NA Sweden 25th Anniversary, **Stockholm**, 24—26 August 2012. Visit: www.nasverige.org.

Na Convention **Orlando** Florida: May 25-27 2012.
www.orlandona.org.

