

NA COMES OF AGE

**A basic resource and informational guide for recovering addicts
in today's digital world**

The following pages are not a totally inclusive guide or source of information, but is intended to provide recovering persons an opportunity to expand their opportunities for understanding, growth and service. It is important that we practice responsibility when utilizing the resources discussed in this forum. Although there are many "recovery oriented" venues available on the "information highway" we are mindful of our 6th Tradition's guidance about endorsement.

www.NA.org is a growing resource for recovering addicts. With a vision that... *"Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life."* This is a great tool not only for members but also non-members seeking information about what NA is and what we offer.

Here are some of the things you may or may not be familiar with which are available in large part to your contributions thru the 7th Tradition:

Did you know that you could find a meeting when moving, traveling or just seeking to expand your recovery with the Meeting Locator?

Option #1: NA Help lines - <http://web.na.org/?ID=phonelines-phonelin-toc>

Option #2: Regional and Area Website Links Page <http://web.na.org/?ID=links-toc>

Option #3: NA Meeting Search <http://portaltools.na.org/portaltools/MeetingLoc>

(Oftentimes NA meetings change without our knowledge and these listings may not be accurate)

Note: NA World Services does not register online groups, but we list online meetings as a service. This listing does not mean that online meetings are considered NA groups or a part of the NA service structure.

Did you know you can have each day's meditation delivered right to your email account when you subscribe @ <http://www.jftna.org/jft-subscription.htm>?

Maybe you want to be one of the first to get the newest edition of Fellowship approved Literature or would like to find that special item for a friend, your group or even yourself.

Literature, medallions, supplies and specialty items can be purchased from NA.org Order Literature:

<http://www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-content>

Have you made use of the searchable database with access to NA literature in 38 languages, which is indexed as books, booklets, informational pamphlets (IPs) and group readings at the following link? <http://www.na.org/?ID=ips-index>

Are you keeping up with the latest information about what is going on in our fellowship and service structure? Access to current and back issues of *NAWS News*, *Reaching Out*, and *The NA Way Magazine* as well as Conference Reports and NAWS reports are available for instant viewing @ Periodicals and Reports: <http://www.na.org/?ID=reports1>

Maybe you want to attend some larger gatherings, conventions, special events that are happening in your area or around the world. Maybe your group, area or region would like to post an upcoming event. There are links on this page to do both:

<http://www.na.org/?ID=comingup-toc>

www.NA.org is a viable resource for the addict (newer or more experienced members), professionals in various fields, potential members, and non-addict family members or those seeing basic information. www.NA.org can be accessed from your home, work, and an internet café, public library, even your data phone - anywhere you can access the web you can gain good information and bolster your recovery. Don't think this is everything available... because we have not even scratched the surface. Please feel free to pass along this information to anyone that may have use for it.

The following are excerpts from our “Public Relations Handbook” that we accessed on the web via www.NA.org

“Anonymity on the Internet”

“The Internet can often give the illusion that it is not a public sphere. As a result, the issue of personal anonymity on the World Wide Web can be a confusing one. Many members, in enthusiastic efforts to carry NA’s message of recovery, have set up personal websites or weblogs. One way a personal site could respect the principle of anonymity would be to state that the site does not represent NA; it speaks only for the individual. Personal sites can also provide links to a local registered site or to na.org. Personal websites can further protect members’ anonymity by using words like “recovery” instead of specifically stating that they are members of Narcotics Anonymous. Using “recovery” instead of “Narcotics Anonymous” will help the site avoid being recognized by a search engine if someone is looking for an NA meeting or information about Narcotics Anonymous. It can also help members maintain their anonymity in this public medium.”

“Public relations and Internet technology”

“The Internet has had an enormous impact on the growth of NA. It allows for more regular communication and provides a vehicle for making information and service resources more readily available.”

“Discussing and addressing known challenges with Internet technology”

“NA members often self-publish through personal websites. A note of caution (as outlined in Chapter Two) is to avoid stating that a person is an NA member. Using language like “recovery” and “twelve-step program” can help a site avoid being mistaken as an area or regional site of Narcotics Anonymous. If a member has used NA’s name on a personal website, then it is especially important not to use pictures of any members on that site, just as an area or region would avoid posting members’ pictures on its website. The use of members’ pictures in association with NA falls outside the principle of anonymity. If pictures are used on a personal site, the NA name should not be used, for the reasons described above. Someone’s voice being heard on the web doesn’t compromise our anonymity in the same way that pictures can. Some NA websites post members’ sharing so that NA’s message can be accessed around the world via the website. This approach seems to maintain members’ anonymity

better than a picture or video would. If a member chooses to participate in sharing that is made accessible via the web, it is important to remember that the share may come into public view. It also may be worth considering avoiding graphic descriptions of active addiction in shares posted on the web. It is not the kind of personal anonymity online as there is in an NA meeting. In most cases, Internet communications can be tracked back to the user or individual computer and can be made available to outside parties or agencies (except when sophisticated encryption or other technologies are used). In an effort to keep private information out of the public's view, message boards or chat rooms used for online meetings or service-related discussions should be made as private as possible. That way, the public cannot view the history or post to these forums. Passwords and other systems such as peer-to-peer instant messaging can provide a level of privacy. When considering personal anonymity and NA's public image, it is important to keep in mind that having publicly available postings or messages means that whatever is posted online can be viewed by any Internet user in the world for long periods of time."

"It is important to remember that there isn't the same kind of personal anonymity online as there is in an NA meeting."

*"Some **online NA meetings** are held in chat rooms and some are held through email lists. Again, member anonymity needs to be preserved through a sign-up process or some other protocol. It is important to remember that online NA meetings may come into the view of the public and have the potential to affect the public's perception of NA. One of the pitfalls of an online meeting can be overly casual conversation that doesn't seem to be driven by NA's primary purpose."*