

# Narcotics Anonymous WRASCNA News Letter

Service Helps Keeps Us Clean

August 2024

## What is service and why do we

**need it-** “Your group has a voice throughout ALL of NA if you choose to use it.” (nacentralohio.org)

**Service** can come in any form the easiest service commitment to make for a struggling addict is getting a home group. Having a weekly meeting that is regularly attended enables a newcomer or some timer to have a place where they are established and recognized by other fellow addicts—a place where they can give back what has been freely given to them.

If you have a home group, ask who your **GSR** (Group Service Representative) is at your next monthly home group meeting and ensure that your GSR can make it to the next Area Service meeting. NA as a whole cannot spread the message to the suffering addict without local meeting support. GSR is responsible for carrying the group’s votes to Area, along with collecting the meeting’s literature, and donating the collected 7th tradition. **These actions ensure that meetings and our area as a whole can continue to function to fulfill our primary purpose- to carry the message to the suffering addict.**

**Our WRASCNA Area Needs Your Assistant the following subcommittees/ positions need to be filled:**

**RCM:** one-year clean time requirement

**RCM Alt:** one-year clean time requirement

**Remember the service area meeting meets the third Sunday of every month at 1480 Eastwood Ave Akron**

## The Twelve Concepts of Service

1. To fulfill our fellowship’s primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.
2. The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.
3. The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.
4. Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.
5. For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.
6. Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.
7. All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.
8. Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.
9. All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.
10. Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.
11. NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.
12. In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.

**Service positions were filled in July’s area, let’s give a big congratulations to the following NA service members:**

- Pete K. for Activities Chair
- Erika J. for H&I
- Renee R. for Webmaster
- Abigail B. for Newsletter
- Nick D. for Alt. Treasure

# Addicts' First-hand Experience in Service

## How has service changed for you from the start of your service commitments to now?

- Service has changed me by teaching me commitment. I try not to start or commit to something that I cannot finish. In addiction, my word didn't mean much but today it means a lot. Service has kept me plugged into the fellowship. Both I'm very active points in recovery as well as the times when complacency was creeping in.

## When you think of service how does it look to you?

- Service in Narcotics Anonymous is about giving back what was freely given to me. It looks like showing up for others, whether it's by making coffee before a meeting, setting up chairs, or simply being there to listen. It's about being a part of something bigger than myself and helping to keep the doors open for the next person who needs what I've found here. Service is humility in action— doing the work, not for recognition, but to help others find recovery.

## If a newcomer wanted to get active what would you suggest to them?

- I would suggest starting with something simple, like helping to set up or clean up after meetings. It's a great way to get to know people and to feel like a part of the group. From there, they could consider taking on a small service position, like greeting newcomers or being a meeting chairperson. The key is to start where they feel comfortable and gradually take on more as they grow in their

recovery. Service is an important part of staying clean, and getting involved helps to strengthen both their recovery and the fellowship as a whole.

## Which service commitments did you think you'd enjoy that you did not?

- I thought I would enjoy chairing the activities subcommittee but I mostly did not enjoy it. It was taxing and there was a lot of stuff I had to store. When the term ended in a great campout I was able to feel a lot of gratitude and it made me not regret the term. I'm proud that I did it but would not do it again.

## Do you hold realistic expectations for yourself and your service commitments over those that you have for others?

- I hold realistic expectations for myself but when I opened a group with other addicts it was a hard lesson in not putting expectations on others when it comes to service work in NA.

## Would you do any of your service commitments again?

- I would do some of my service commitments again, some I would not. But I learned from each position that I have filled.

## If service positions aren't fulfilled or shared what could the results conclude for our area?

- No one is stepping up like they used to. Those who are in positions stay there in fear that NA as a whole will suffer because no one is attending Area or contributing like our community once did.
- People often forget principles before personalities. Everyone points the finger but it's easy to forget we are just a piece of a bigger whole. All addicts matter and represent NA when attending a meeting or function. We are self-centered individuals with our own agenda. I myself am not a smoker but I hear the same line said at 95% of the meetings I attend, "Pick up your butts or smoking will be banned on the property. I know addicts— nicotine and caffeine are required to function. So when I see the cigarette litter I pick it up. It's stupid small stuff but it could help our group keep the space we have as we have it."

## ~Words from Addicts in Recovery~

“Being clean and living the program has helped me as a mom. I can now be a present mom and enjoy every little thing that I can do with my son.” – Amanda M.

“I have been able to find true, genuine friends in my recovery within the fellowship that have meaning. That is something I never had before, and I am so grateful.” – Brenda H.

“The fellowship has given me the strength to chase my recovery as much as I had been chasing the drugs for years.” – Anonymous

“I thought I had felt a sense of belonging to certain people, places, or things before when I was in active addiction but that wasn’t the real me that felt that—it was the old me. I have come to realize what it really feels like within the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous. I’m home.” – Kaleigh Z.

“I am thankful for my relapse because when I reentered the rooms, I had a completely new outlook on the steps and my perspective on myself.” -Anonymous

“I truly believe in the power of the program, the rooms, and the spoken words we all share with one another: As long as the ties that bind us together, are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well!” -Anonymous

“I didn’t know what to expect when I went to my first meeting. I remember hearing outsiders talk about it, so I had reservations. I can tell you that my first meeting I went to, I have never felt so loved and welcomed before. I kept coming back.” - Anonymous

“The truth is before NA I never got clean I just stopped using.” -Anonymous

“There had to be more to life than waiting on a dope dealer. I found that when I got clean.” -Anonymous

“In active addiction we gave up everything for one thing, in recovery we gave up one thing for everything.” -Anonymous

## Want to add to the Newsletter?

Feel free to attend our next newsletter committee meeting Thursday,  
September 5<sup>th</sup> after Falls Group (2220 2<sup>nd</sup> St Cuyahoga Falls).

~ Our new friends in the Fellowship will help us. Our common effort is  
recovery. Clean, er face the world together (Basic Text pg. 56)~

In loving service and with much respect – The Newsletter committee