

Ozark Area NA Bulletin



APRIL 2025

The Ozark Area Newsletter

www.ozarkasc.com

na.org

24 Hour Helpline 1-888-359-3339

**5th Tradition, A New Way, Breaking the Cycle, But Do It, Clean & Serene,
Just For Today, Living Clean, No Matter What, Spiritual Principles, Straightline,
Stray Katz, Survivors, Traditional Recovery, Under Grace, We Do Recover**

UPCOMING EVENTS

OZARK AREA BIRTHDAY

MAY 4TH 1-5 PM
PARR HILL PARK SHELTER 1
18TH & KANSAS JOPLIN, MO

LIVING CLEAN'S ANNIVERSARY CHICKEN DINNER

MAY 10TH 5:30-10:00PM
HOMER COLE COMMUNITY CENTER
3003 N JOPLIN ST PITTSBURG, KS

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES

RECOVERY BY THE CREEK CAMPOUT
MAY 31ST-JUNE 1ST
RIVERS BEND CAMPGROUND

POSITIVE GROWTH PIG ROAST

JUNE 6TH-8TH, 2025
ORLEANS TRAIL CAMPGROUND
STOCKTON LAKE

RECOVERYFEST

JUNE 6, 7, 8, 2025
ELK CITY STATE PARK
INDEPENDANCE, KANSAS

HIGH ON LIFE PICNIC

JULY 25, 26, 27, 2025
BUCKSAW RESORT & MARINA
CLINTON, MISSOURI

APRIL CLEAN TIME BIRTHDAYS

**GERI G 1 YEAR
WILL J 1 YEAR
CORY F 2 YEARS
TOMMY G 2 YEARS
TARA K 3 YEARS
TABITHA W 3 YEARS
RYAN X J 3 YEARS
TERESA POTTS 3 YEARS
RANDY POTTS 3 YEARS
BRANDY J 3 YEARS
STEVE S 4 YEARS
JAMES C 4 YEARS
ALBERT B 4 YEARS
TABITHA S 6 YEARS
JACOB C 8 YEARS
LAURA T 9 YEARS
CRYSTAL C 13 YEARS
PAM M 40 YEARS
PAT DAY 42 YEARS**

“APRIL TOPIC... UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”

Unconditional love, what we would all like to receive but is so hard for human beings to give. Love without any "I love you as long as you do _____.

Or, I'll love you as long as you don't do_____.

We long for the love that says "I love you no matter what you do or don't do."

That is why I rely on my higher power.

I can receive unconditional love from the God of my understanding, that is so difficult for my fellow humans to give.

FLYNN M

Quotes from the Basic Text:

"By giving unconditional love in the Fellowship, we become more loving and by sharing spiritual growth we become more spiritual." p. 103

"I want to keep what has been given to me so I actively share through loving service to NA, wherever and however I am asked. The spirit of the Fellowship is in me today. I have come to know unconditional love." p. 117

My first Higher Power was a feeling I would get while at NA meetings. Something happened when NA members came together that I'd never seen before. Whatever it was became my Higher Power so I went to lots of meetings because I loved what I felt there. The safety and the togetherness, the feeling that I never had to be alone again kept me close to the Fellowship.

I had pretty much been alone my whole life, even within my family and with friends. A massive fear kept me from getting close to friends. Emotional abuse kept me afraid within my family. But at NA this fear began to fade, first the fear of the meetings and then of the people and eventually of my sponsor. I give a lot of credit to my sponsor for helping me through my fears and leading me to my own conception of a loving Higher Power.

Today I know what that feeling is that I believed in when I was new. It is the unconditional love of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. That Love is still there in all kinds of ways. Our meetings are testimony to it, so is sponsorship.

This month I have the privilege of celebrating another year clean in Narcotics Anonymous. I still go to a lot of meetings. It's where the love is.

PAM M.

First, let me say, I had to know what love was. Basic text describes it as the life force between us.... maybe. When I heard love described as feeling connected to and wanting the best for it made more sense to me. Actually, it made absolute sense. However, unconditional love, was something I absolutely did not think existed. I know now it was because I had unlimited conditions on the love I felt for myself and the world around me. Through the process of the steps, I learned how to trust God, clean house, help others and love myself. Where the unconditional love really started was when I was spending time with my grandchildren. I realized that no matter what occurred in our interactions together I would love them, no matter what. I think that's when I understood that unconditional love truly existed, and that I was capable of practicing it.

SCOTT P

“APRIL TOPIC... UNCONDITIONAL LOVE”

Unconditional love is the Unity of the Fellowship. When we have other addicts in our world, we learn that we can love without expectation. Addicts are going to fail us, but we love them through their failings, knowing that NA can and will change a person. Recovery teaches us how to not make the same mistake repeatedly and expect a different result. When we see this in action, we know that person will grow past that mistake if they stick with the Basics of Narcotics Anonymous. We help those who ask us, through Sponsorship and friendships established in the rooms. We reach out for help ourselves, to those who are there for us. At first it may be an act of faith that we do, but over time we come to establish ourselves as a member and learn to love others the way we were loved when we arrived. That is not to say we have no boundaries; we must establish them to protect our wellbeing. However, we carry the message, not the addict. When I share the life-giving message of recovery, I am practicing self-love as well as selfless service to others. Keep sharing, caring and giving this precious gift of life called Recovery. You are worth it!

Shelly W.

When I got to my first meeting, I was scared and full of guilt and shame. I had fought and lost a battle with drugs and was told by a judge to do “90 and 90.” When I arrived at my first meeting, not only was I not rejected, I was hugged and told that “we’re glad you are here!” You are in the right place!” and to “Keep coming back!” That was my first taste of Unconditional Love and today I try to give back that hope that was given to me. I look for ways to give the newcomer the love and compassion that was shown me. Literature, rides to meetings, a call list and a caring ear to those that want to pick up the phone and reach out, no matter what time of the day or night. Thank you to the predecessors that prayed me in and those that welcomed me with open arms when I got here.

Rufus P.

OZARK AREA VICE-CHAIR POSITION IS OPEN

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE...

- A. Acts as Chair in case of absence or vacancy of the office of the Chair.
- B. Is a co-signatory of any Sub-Committee bank account.
- C. Attends and helps coordinate Sub-Committee functions, is a standing member of all Sub- and Ad-Hoc Committees, and acts as Chair for any joint Sub-Committee meetings.
- D. Shall be available to help GSR’s with any matter of the service structure, guidelines, Parliamentary procedure, etc.
- E. Is Parliamentarian for the ASC.
- F. unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the ASC, nominees must have 2 years of continuous clean time.
- G. Term length will be 1 year from October to October to then move into the Chair position for an additional 1 year if vote of confidence from ASC is in agreement.

SERVICE WORK WILL KEEP YOU CLEAN!

NEVER ALONE, NEVER AGAIN...

Hello disease, well we've been many places together. For a long time you were my best friend, always there to make me feel better when all was shit or there was something to celebrate. You had lots of ideas on how to protect us. Get us through and get us out of things. Ideas that were exciting and made us feel worthwhile. Comfortable in our own skin and in crowds, at times we stayed so busy but never got anything done. You helped me make friends when I moved, didn't know anyone and barely understood the language. You were there to console me when mom died and many days after, even when she was alive but suffering you distracted me so I didn't have to feel anything. Countless other times and ideas that will forever be burned in my memories, but that's not why I'm writing. I'm writing because things have changed. Especially the way I see and feel about you now. You know, all them years you really had me convinced that you were the way, the solution. You groomed me from a young age and so did the world in those close to me with the best friend just like you. Pain is a funny thing, at first it's the feeling you helped me with whether it be physical, mental, spiritual or emotional. You had just the right substance, attitude or action for me. Then your Solutions started becoming the things that brought me the most pain I had ever felt. You stole things in time I'll never get back, you were turning me into someone I didn't even want to be around. I defended you for a long time. Just like you said, they wouldn't understand me or you and what we could do and were doing together. However, now I realize I was defending someone that only wanted me for yourself. You are isolating an alienating us. You promised so much and all I got was bread crumbs but never what my heart really desired. You are a distorter and confuser always blowing things out of proportion or downplaying situations and feelings to control me. I know you'll be with me till I die trying to convince me of what to do next dressing it up so good, so I must stay vigilant. I know you mean well but it's just in your nature. Like a scorpion, no matter who you help or who helps you you can't help but sting them. The boy you once had so wrapped around your tentacles has grown up a lot and has an arsenal to overcome you with so long as he never forgets where he came from and that you are there. Sometimes your greatest strength is patience and time, you're waiting silently for your opportunity to start whispering when he becomes complacent. I know this without a doubt, because I have been that man and I love him more now than ever for coming back to us, knowing how hard that is. What power and Grace this higher power has, it never gave up or quit trying to take our hand and guide us back. Our loving and caring power greater than us. That's right, even greater than you. It has created a new solution and a new way of life to keep you arrested, so we can live and help others find their way away from you. So that they too can awaken to the truth of your ways. So that they too can break free from the lie, that they need you in your ways that only serve you. They were never about helping me, you only used me to use others and I'm done with that. I'm done being a servant to destroy and take selfishly. I know I'm not perfect and you would have me just give up, what's the point? The point is that I'm worth the journey, the progress, the mistakes and lessons, the ups and downs, the chance to be there for others, and let others be here for me, because that's life, that's living and that's what we are doing. We! My recovery brothers and sisters. We never have to be alone never again thanks to the 12 steps and the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

- A GRATEFUL RECOVERING ADDICT