

Never Alone *sfv*

San Fernando Valley Area Newsletter

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Turning it over this Spring

By: Bill C

San Fernando Valley Area

Have you thought about the white key tag? Does the thought of grabbing one at a meeting bring memories of your first meeting in Narcotics Anonymous? Or, perhaps, the second or third time when a return to the world of active addiction proved to be a total failure? I have taken my share of white "chips." Over the years I have taken them in two fellowships and in three counties. I was a resilient kind of fellow and really thought that "I could drink like a gentleman" or using just for fun on the occasional party outing. Hell, I was mature! I had done the work! I walked the walk and talked the talk! I was different!

But, not so different that I couldn't avoid taking just one more white chip. God blesses the member of the fellowship that comes in, stays and never has to prove something to their ego. God bless them for having the willingness and humility to understand that "out there" will never be any different than on the last day that they decided to use drugs. Really, I mean it. God bless them. But, what about the person that hasn't taken the twelve-step journey? Or, gotten a sponsor? Or, been to ninety meetings in ninety days? They take the white key tag of surrender and take it again until they, too have understood what being clean really means to them. And, God blesses them, too!

I've been giving out key tags or been the chip person for a year now at a meeting. Every time I ask for anyone wanting to reaffirm their recover by taking a white chip, I get no takers. Now, I understand the stigma that is attached to standing up and getting noticed for hugging the chip

person and taking a white key tag of surrender. I know that people just might whisper: "Did they go out?" And then the gossip would start. The sprout of pity and derision and "I told you so" would pass from fellowship member to fellowship member like wild fire. Soon, everyone would be saying... "Did you hear...?" And, it would all be over the Area in seconds that so-and-so took a newcomer chip!

Well, that isn't the only reason for stepping up and acknowledging one's recovery. Any body at any time in any meeting can jump at the opportunity to show the meeting the, "damn -it, my recovery means enough to take a key tag of surrender any time I want to." I can reaffirm my sense of what I have received in NA. I can make it known that

my recovery comes first and means something true and honest today! Just like spring. Just like the newness of warm weather and colors that pop up everywhere around this time of year. The Vernal Equinox means changing of season from the cold shorter days of winter to the warm longer days of spring. And, hearing that "personal recovery depends on NA unity" can mean that perhaps, just perhaps, a person taking a white chip will find that their renewal is permanent and loving to themselves and an example to those that are hesitant to remember that surrender can happen, and probably will, every day, in lots of circumstances.

So, this Spring, take a white key tag or chip, smile at the chip-person, receive your hug and raise your hands in jubilation that your recovery has been reborn.

Quote of the Month:

Religion is for people who want to go to heaven; Spirituality is for people who have been through hell!

The Meeting Corner

This section is dedicated to meetings requesting support, the date, time and location of each meeting will be posted. Each month there will be a meeting that is in the spotlight and will be talked about in a little more detail.

Paradise Meeting Van Nuys

S Like low key, down to earth meetings, then this is the one for you. Held at 14646 Sherman Way, in room 2 at St. Marks Church. Just about a block and a half West of Van Nuys Blvd. This meeting meets every Saturday at 6pm. It is an open participation meeting in a nice quiet neighborhood in a small room. It kind of feels like a family gathering because of small size and you can see the sun set from inside the room, so it fills up with a glow both from the sun and recovery.

Meetings Requesting Support

Sunday

9am *Freewheelers*
Northridge Hospital Basement
18300 Roscoe Blvd
Open Coffee Commitment

7pm *Sunday Night in the Park*
Tujunga
On the corner of Wyngate &
Foothill Blvd (behind Fire Stn)

Wednesday

730pm *Knollwood Meeting*
12121 Balboa Blvd.
North Hills

Thursday

7pm *Recovery in the Park*
10058 Reseda Blvd
(Northridge Park)

630pm *Finally Free Through Recovery*
8737 Van Nuys Blvd
(main entrance near Parthenia)

Friday

8am *The Pay Day Meeting*
Studio 12
Plenty of Open Seats!!!



BIRTHDAYS



Angie	1 yr	Joann	2 yrs
Sam	1 yr	Richard	2 yrs
Mickey	1 yr	Tim	2 yrs
John	1 yr	Mandy	4 yrs
Shannon	1 yr	Jonathan	8 yrs
Alan	1 yr	Ron	15 yrs
Joseph	1 yr	Rita	17 yrs
Jim	2 yrs		

God's Will

By: Anonymous
Via Email

God's will most often happens in spite of us, not because of us.

We may try to second guess what God has in mind for us, looking searching, hyper vigilant to seek God's will as though it were a buried treasure, hidden beyond our reach.

If we find it, we win the prize.
But if we're not careful, we miss out.

That's *not* how it works.

We may believe that we have to walk on eggshells, saying, thinking, and feeling the right thing, while forcing ourselves somehow to be in the right place at the right time to find God's will.

But that's not true.

God's will for us is not hidden like a buried treasure. We do not have to walk on eggshells in order to have it happen.

It is right there inside and around us.
It is happening, right now.

Sometimes, it is quiet and uneventful and includes the daily disciplines of responsibility and learning to take care of ourselves. Sometimes, it is healing us when we're in circumstances that trigger old grieving and unfinished business.

Sometimes, it is grand

We do have a part.

We have responsibilities, including caring for ourselves. But we do not have to control God's will for us.

We are being taken care of.

We are protected.

And the Power caring for and protecting us loves us very much.

If it is a quiet day, trust the stillness.

If it is a day of action, trust the activity.

If it is time to wait, trust the pause.
If it is time to receive that which we have been waiting for, trust that it will happen clearly and with power, and receive the gift of joy.

Today, I will trust that God's will is happening as it needs to in my life. I will not make myself anxious and upset by searching vigorously for God's will, taking necessary actions to control the course of my destiny or wondering if God's will has passed me by and I have missed it.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

CONVENTIONS

Southern California Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous XXVI "A BETTER PERSPECTIVE"

November 25 - 27, 2005

DoubleTree Hotel
222 N. Vineyard Ave.
Ontario, CA 91764

Pre-register by Nov. 4, 2005 \$20
On-Site Registration \$25
Send in your pre-registration to
SCRCNA 26
P.O. Box 1075
West Covina, CA 91793

QUESTION OF THE MONTH ???

Each month there will be a new "Question of the Month". The purpose of this is to help addicts on their road to recovery and get insight from other addicts on issues that someone may be having at the time.

This month's question is:

What did you go through that almost made you go out and how did you get through it?

When you submit your answer to this question, please make sure to write "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" on the envelope or on the response so we know what it goes with.

Dances

San Fernando Valley Area Presents "DANCE & FELLOWSHIP"

Saturday, September 24, 2005

First United Methodist Church
18120 Saticoy Street
Reseda, CA

Meeting 8pm-9pm
Dance 9:15pm-12:30am
\$7.00 Donation

For more info call:
SFV Phone Lines 818-997-3822

Eastern Counties Presents "DIP INTO YOUR RECOVERY" A Day of History and Learning

October 1, 2005

Pico Park
9528 Beverly Blvd,
Pico Rivera

Dinner & Presentations 4pm-7pm
25 cents donation a serving
Meeting 7pm-9pm
Dance 9pm
Singles \$8.00
Couple \$14.00

For more info call the helpline
562-698-4604

Addiction Diaries

Southern CA Spring Gathering Presents "ADDICTION DIARIES" An Evening of Dramatic Recovery

Sunday, October 22, 2005

12211 Magnolia Street
Garden Grove, CA 92841

Doors open at 7pm Show at 7:30pm
This is a PG-13 event and pre-sale tickets are available.
Contact the Spring Gathering by e-mail at:

How do I submit something to the Newsletter?

Easy, write your submission, whether a story, experience, poem, comic, anything recovery related

Then e-mail-it to:

neveralone2@nasfv.com

Or mail it to:

SFVNA
Never Alone Newsletter
P.O. BOX 4143
PANORAMA CITY, CA 91412