

History of N.A. IN Michigan

The Oldest KNOWN member of N.A. in Michigan Shares that the first N.A. meeting, he is aware of, was started in Detroit in February of 1969, on Jefferson Ave. at the Presbyterian Church. This meeting was sponsored by an N.A. Group out of Cleveland, Ohio. When he returned to that meeting a few months later he discovered the Group either dissolved or went under ground due to police harassment.

The next meeting was started by this member and another in June of 1975. This meeting was held in Bay City, at the Bialy Building on Wednesday nights. Through out the next few years meetings were started in many other places like Riverside Center, Friendship House, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Samaritan Health Center, and Trinity Episcopal Church.

In 1977 the meeting held at the Bialy Building on Wednesday nights was moved to the Trinity Episcopal Church Basement and is still held there. In 1979 a meeting which was being held at Riverside Center on Sunday nights was also moved to Trinity Episcopal Church basement. These two meetings merged together to form one Group and are known today as the Never Alone Group. There are two

people remaining who attended the first meetings, one of them being the person who started the first meeting in Bay City in 1979. 2 meetings were started at Samaritan Health Center on Tuesday and Thursday nights. In 1980 a Wednesday noon meeting was started at Samaritan Health Center. Tuesday and Thursday meetings still exist with the Wednesday noon meeting folded in February of 1983. A Womens meeting was started at St. Hedwigs Rectory in February of 1983, on Monday nights. In February of 1983 a meeting was started on Friday Night at St. Hedwigs Rectory. The Womens meeting changed from a womens meeting to a regular closed meeting in May of 1983. These two meetings merged together to form one Group and are now today as Start and End the Weekend Night Group. In March 1983 a noon meeting was started at St. Hedwigs Church and is known as IT Works Group. In April 1983 a Thursday Midnight, and a Saturday meeting was started and is known as Over the Hill Group. In February of 1983 a First Nar-Avon meeting was started at St. Hedwigs Church Rectory. This meeting is still active today.

Today Bay City has Nine N.A. meetings a week which are made up from Five different Groups.

Feb. 25, 1982, two members from Flint attended GREYNAF in Atlanta, Ga. This convention was the first personal contact with "Greater NA" the Michigan Fellowship had. They heard that where NA has grown rapidly, someone has based their recovery in and committed to NA. Those two members returned to Flint with an understanding of the First Step of NA, and the autonomy of the NA Program. With these awarenesses they felt commitment to Narcotics Anonymous was necessary for their recovery.

There were only three NA meetings in Flint at this time; Sunday 12 pm, Monday 8pm and Wednesday 8pm. A late night marathon meeting was established in a member's home. This Friday night "Survivors" meeting was held there a few weeks, then started to move. It traveled, appeared here and there, and brought a feeling of deep intimacy between many who attended.

The existing groups were resistant to change and none of them cared to read from our basic text approval form, so a Sunday 6:30 pm literature study group was formed. "Sicker than Others," they needed to study the book. This meeting was announced and discussed alot, and soon another literature study group started Thursday 7pm, "Steppin' Up." About this time a discussion meeting was started in a local alano club Saturday 2pm, but lasted only a few mos.

September 4, a member from Fenton, 15 miles south of Flint started a new group. The first meeting was held on Saturday night, then moved to Friday 8pm. It was started as a group conscience, open-format, and has

evolved to a literature study group. A discussion meeting was also started on Friday night in Davison, 10 miles east of Flint. This seemed to divide our small Fellowship. This group folded when its founder relapsed and died.

Members who chose not to participate in an institutional meeting in a detox unit started another Wednesday (730) meeting, "Cross Connection."

A one day mini conference was held January 15, 1983, in Flint. It was sponsored by the Michigan Area, and was our first major YNA function. Members from four states attended, despite an ice storm. Funds raised from this were used to send the RSR and RSR alt. to WSC-83. January 16, a meeting was held and decision made to form a region.

The treatment community asked for an YNA meeting in a 28 day rehab, so a "First Step" group was started 8pm Tuesday. The founder of that group changed shifts and started a Friday 11am meeting.

We had meetings on six days, half discussion and half literature study, so the decision was made to start an open, speaker-comment meetings in the auditorium of a local hospital. *** insert

The "Flint Area" didn't function for a couple of months after the mid-michigan ASC dissolved, and the Central Great Lakes RSC was formed. Then local members saw the need for communication between groups, to promote unity.

"FASCYNA" was formed, and a fundraiser is planned for an Area Office and HOTLINE !!

* * * The Sunday Lit. Study Group decided in June to change its name to "Sweet Surrender" so some who weren't comfortable with the former name would be free to attend. (A rose by any name...)

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treatment centers, and one is in a 5 day detox. Flint has established an H & I sub-committee and PI sub-committee and we are in the process of communicating with area hospitals and other institutions. A PI community awareness meeting is being planned for late summer or early fall. Past PI activities include PSA spots on radio and TV, distribution of meeting lists. 11 meetings were formed in the last year, one area service formed. Hotline was started in Flint and failed, ASC will deal with this, most important accomplishment in past few months is contact with NA outside our Michigan area. This contact encouraged us to seek out isolated NA meetings in Michigan and begin communicating. This led to formation of ASC, and two mini-conferences for Book Study, for group conscience to approve our basic text. We have problems with isolation, both of groups and individuals, problems with attitudes of "we can't do that". Communication and recognition of NA as a separate and distinct fellowship. In experience, we need guidelines!!! Need visitors, and invite anyone who would like to come. Our mailing: ASC, P.O. Box 3588, Flint, Michigan 48502. HISTORY: Detroit-1969, held only for a few weeks, ended because of alleged police harrasment. No mor meetings until 2 months ago, in the Detroit suburb of Madison Heights. 2 meetings currently. Bay City-1975?, currently 7 meetings, 5 in treatment centers. Flint-1977, two members form N. California motorcycled into Flint and started 2 meetings which later folded. The left literature, IP's and white books, which were used to contact WSO and stell continue. 1979 Flint's oldest continuous NA meeting established in an Alano Club. Currently 5 meetings. Grand Rapids-Grand Haven-1981 (DEC.) NA member detoxed in Kansas started 2 meetings. They are current. Pontiac/Madison Heights-1982 (March) member from Atlanta started 4 meetings. In February 1982, members from Flint, Bay City and Madison Heights groups met in Atlanta, Ga. and returning home, formed Area Service Committee. Group conscience was taken for support of state delegate to WSC. Struggeling on how to for a Region.

82 MICHIGAN STATE... Jim Back, P.O. Box 3035, Flint Michigan, 48502. (313-235-9819).

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June 19, 1983

History CLEVELAND

Which Cleveland group sponsored the first Detroit meeting?
"Intervention"-drop in center operated by an AA member Summer '77-2 NA members
dropped in from San Jose, CA-late night meetings-12 AM lasted a couple months-
no PI-meetings at AA
White Book, who, what an look, we made a decision-rec and rel

Attempted to start a daytime meeting-met four or five times. Little support.

California members returned to San Jose in early fall of '77. Meeting immediately
folded at Intervention. AA saved literature.

Couple people from Flint attended Bay City meeting at Riverside and Friend-
ship House a few times '77-'78.

December 18, 1979 meeting started in ARID Club, 715 East St. One member worked for
six weeks or so preceding that meeting to convince the alcoholics on Club's
board of directors that NA would not attract robbers, thieves or perverts to the
Arid Club. Required a change in club's by-laws.

Meeting established Sundays at 10 AM. We were trying to avoid conflict with Sun-
day morning(11AM) meeting of AA.

Starter kit from WSO ordered previous to first meeting.

Irratic attendance through the first year. One trusted servant, no PI.

Second meeting established Tuesdays at midnight. Greater participation and support
than daytime meeting.

Sunday meeting change to 12 noon.

In '80-'81 several meetings started in(2)T-C's and (1)drop-in didn't work, folded,
broke traditions.

Received Grey Book? 1981 Feb-March?

Meeting started us ing Book, reading and reviewing. Finally folded due to lack
of support and no trusted servants.

Flint General Hospital meeting started Monday and Wednesday nights. This was
the first real attempt at H&I, PI or outreach.

Used AA Big Book and some NA pamphlets, recommended AA meetings to addicts.

1981 two members attempted a hotline in the summer for three months. Answering
service and drop-in center numbers were broadcast over TV and radio public service
announcements. No one called the answering service number, some were received
by drop-in but no one followed up on them. Some people were referred to AA.

December 1981: Monday night meeting moved out of Flint General into St. Andrews
Church.

Discussion centered around whether to move to a location where there was already
an AA meeting or a place where no meeting had previously existed. Following AA