

MISSISSIPPI State cont

42 Their problems much like other areas. Problems raising money and properly applying traditions, keeping their SS in tact, and finding the best way to handle problems as they arise. In July of 1982 they will be having their 3rd Anniversary in Memphis. Their first meeting was held in July 1979. In February 1981 they hosted WLC-3. Between February and May of 1981 they distributed gray books, approval forms, stories and service structure changes. In April of 1982 they hosted 2 different service learning days. The Mississippi Region is more of an off-shoot of Memphis than anything else. NA began in 1977 when a couple of alcoholics who had trouble with drugs weren't getting what they needed in another fellowship. They started meetings in Jackson, MS.. They struggled for 3 years by themselves but with the help of referrals from treatment programs they grew. As these people left they took the NA message with them. Slowly, they began developing groups outlying and away from Jackson area. In 1980 2 groups began which are still going. In the latter part of 1981, 4 more groups were began. They are all growing. We have 11 groups and 17 meetings, with active membership of 125 members. In November 1981 I was unemployed and the group gave me \$50. and sent me to Memphis for a week. I went to Memphis and grew and learned a lot at the Regional Literature Conference there. When I came back to carry the message to the group they scheduled me to talk to 2 other groups about what I had learned. As I talked to the groups about what happened in Memphis and they decided to try to get the state together and have a learning workshop in January 1982. We had a workshop in the a.m. Mainly SS, literature and the problems with growth. After the meeting we had a business meeting about us becoming an area or a Region or a state. We started as an area, became a state, by the end of the day we were a Region. Mississippi Region. Major accomplishment is that we got it together as a group. In April 1982 we had a Regional Service Committee meeting and a learning workshop and got group conscience on the book as well as the Service Manual. Besides becoming a Region we got everyone in Mississippi a copy of all approval forms of literature. The major problem is literature. At the meeting in January in Jackson we had one blue book in the whole state so we've been running copies of that off trying to get people familiar with the service structure and having service structure meetings at all groups plus growing pains, awareness of other NA functions has also been a big problem and Mississippi has felt that they've been isolated. When you look at it Mississippi rates 49th or 60th in just about everything. Another big problem is interaction with the other fellowships. The majority of people who are clean in NA did not get clean there. The more they grew the more they realized they needed something else. The growing and separation pains are being extremely painful and will show up in our vote on literature approval forms and input into WSC. Plans to get structured in area. WE bypassed that because we wanted a Rep. at this WSC. As it happens areas are beginning to form anyway because of geographic locations. Trying to raise money for Regional P.O. Box and have a central location for incoming and outgoing mail. Planning a camp-out for June 1982. Trying to get wider involvement. H & I was began because a couple of members are in the penitentiary. It has been a real asset because now we have some "ins" into the institution. One of the

62  
few guys who got clean in NA in the state of Mississippi got busted for habitual criminal act and is doing a life sentence in Parchment, and he got in there and is really struggling and his wife, who is in the program also, was visiting him on a weekly basis and started taking him some literature that we got and as a result of that he's managed to get approval from the administration and he's in the process now of trying to set up the first real meeting inside the correctional institutions in Mississippi. Its been a real problem in the past. They are registered in the WORLD Directory as having a group there but as far as we can find out there has never been a group there, someone had just sent in a registration form some years back so they could get some literature and find out what it is all about and nothing ever happened with it and its starting to happen now. We've also got quite a few other institutions, mental hospitals and that kind of thing where the groups had started in those institutions and have broken away but are still actively involved in those hospitals and institutions and that has been a real positive for us in all the rest of the fog. We hope to get some information on PI announcements or any thing like that. That is one of the goals that I'm here to gain is to take back some literature so we can start to develope in these areas. We do have one group that has a hot line and everybody has really pitched in and its been an amazing thing for me having been around the program and having been in so many places in so many different regions to see the enthusiasm. Its like a bunch of starved kids who haven't eaten in weeks and that they've just been turned loose in the grocery store and they said go at it and they are going at it. Every week I find out something that I didn't even know that they were thinking about not only have they throught about it they've done it and now they want to know where to go from there and they're catching me off guard and they're keeping me hopping. That's all I've got from the state of Mississippi and the area from Memphis. Thank You.

42  
MISSISSIPPI STATE...Dennis Engel, 201 W. President, Apt. 208, Greenwood, Mississippi, 38930. (601) 455-1724

I've got an unusual situation I want to explain first, A week ago Tuesday I got a phone call from Memphis, Tenn., and they said their area couldn't send a reprezenative and they wanted me to act as their group conscience and my understanding is their going to try to join our region probably at the end of this coming month. Two reports, one from Memphis, total number of meetings-24, with 50-75 members. H & I has 11 meetings per week with H & I cans at non-institutional meetings. H & I functions as sub-committee of Memphis ASC. Major accomplishments April 1981 ASC Steering committee Formed. June 1981, H & I literature and PI sub-committee were formed. July 1981 literature sub-committee sponsored a picnic to raise funds for the meeting directory. In August of 1981 the Memphis Miracle newsletter was began. October 1981 clubhouse was opened and during Oct. the clubhouse sponsored a series of events to raise money for RSC. These included a bake sale, rummage sale, pot-luck dance and Halloween party. In November 1981 Memphis hosted the Mid-South RSC where 19 states were represented, WSC policy sub-committee, and literature sub-committee meetings were also held. In November 1981 thru March 1982 they distributed the approval form of Our Book, stories and Service Manual. In December 1981 they held a Christmas party. In January of 1982 a New Year's Eve party. In February a Valentine's Party. April 1982 they had two service learning days. PI still struggling without enough members to support a hotline. We need to be better to handle an influx of new people. We are on scheule for our age PI is a priority for this year. Literature sub-committee is stockpiling literature and chips and is distributing a monthly newsletter. The H & I sub-committee is recieving inquiries

form Institutions and Hospitals and doing a fine job in carrying the message to Hospitals, A & D units, and institutions in the area. The clubhouse is still in operation with meetings every night. ASC and some of the sub-committees meet there on neutral ground monthly. Many fellowship functions are held there. They are having money troubles with rent at times but so far HP has been providing. Their problems raising money.

-12-