

The History of Williamsport Area

In September of 1972, four addicts from Philadelphia came to Williamsport in support of fellow addicts. At this time the need of involvement with rehabilitation centers was of utter importance.

The first Narcotics Anonymous meeting was recorded on tape at the Divine Providence Hospital with approximately four to six addicts attending. From this group more than a dozen meetings sprang up in Williamsport.

Area service in 1972-1973 was known as Intergroup, which met in Danville, PA. Today this same group is the Williamsport Area Service. There were no literature contacts with the World Service Office. Groups from Williamsport printed their own White Books and pamphlets, which nearly caused lawsuits from Sun Valley World Literature Committee.

In 1972, service work was started in the prisons, hospitals, and rehabs. Twelve-step work was also done without the guidance of an answering service. The answering service was suggested in 1977, but did not come into existence this year. Finally, after many hours of research, Williamsport developed their hotline on December 10, 1978.

A Narcotics Anonymous Clubhouse was started in 1976. After many struggles and disappointments, this attempt folded. There were approximately thirty members of the clubhouse, which are still clean, so the dream was not lost completely.

On February 27, 1977, the Area Service Committee held a discussion regarding alternates for holding officers. The groups felt the need to utilize all of their resources possible. This motion was voted into existence as policy for the area.

On July 29, 1979, talk of having the First NA Convention was started. NA members from Williamsport and other areas came together to make the First East Coast Convention. It was located in Lewisburg, PA in July 1980. The theme of the convention was "Never Alone." A bond of service involvement was developed from this convention held at Bucknell University.

The Monday and Friday morning recovery group was started October of 1982. It is a twelve and twelve meeting today. This group made up a meeting card with the theme "Start Your Day the NA Way." Attendance averages now in 1983 between ten to fifteen addicts.

The "Glad to be Alive" group was formed in July 1, 1983. It was the first textbook meeting in the area. They read a chapter and have discussion.

In April of 1983, Williamsport has thirteen meetings in progress. Four or five of these meetings have been in existence since 1972. The Divine Providence meeting celebrated eleven years with approximately thirty to thirty-five addicts in attendance.

Williamsport Area is gifted with two detoxes and two rehabilitation centers in their general area. There is always a steady flow of newcomers.

The Area Service Committee comprises of the Dunmore Group, Allenwood Group, Exeter Group, Wilkes-Barre Group, Lewisburg Group, Danville Group, Sunbury Group, Bloomsburg Group, and Scranton Group as of 1982.

In September of 1982, after returning from the world convention, two members realized a need for a step and tradition meeting. And from the need came the "More Than Clean Group" which started in October 1982. Since then three step and tradition meetings have formed.