From time to time we all want to make a fresh start in life, to close the door on our past and open ourselves up to a new beginning. What better time to do this than the New Year right? Isn’t that why we make those New year Resolutions and set those New Year goals? Have you ever wondered why people make such a big deal of New Year’s Eve? People understand that a New Year can be a turning point in their lives, it brings people hope, people understand that a New Year is a fresh start and a new beginning.

The word New means fresh, the word beginning means first in time, the start of something… So yeah, absolutely this is a fresh start, a New Beginning…If you choose for it to be.

For me personally, I remember the last handful of New Years Eve, being so hopeful, so excited, just knowing that this was going to be my year, that this is the year that everything was going to change. Every year though, nothing changed. In fact things only got worse over the years. That hope I had turned into hopelessness, that excitement I had felt only turned into despair. It wasn’t until I was blessed with the gift of desperation, that I truly got the desire to change. My new beginning started with a deep desperate desire to change, that is when I actually started to see positive changes in my life.

Did my New beginning, my fresh start, my new way of living start on New Years? No, it didn’t start until March of this past year that is when my desire for change outweighed my hope for change. Hope is a great and beautiful thing, but my hope was empty until I became willing to do anything to change my life.

A New beginning, a fresh start a new way of life doesn’t have to start and end with a new year It can start anytime u choose and desire for it to start. This new years is different for me, yes I do have goals set, but it’s a time for a reflection. Reflecting on where we have come to where we are now, personal achievements that we have accomplished, areas in our lives we feel we have room for improvement. It’s a time we look back at all the newfound friends we have gained in the program and the ones we have lost along the way.

So I will end with this, I am so grateful for the program of Narcotics Anonymous, my Higher Power and the Fellowship of NA that has shown me a New way to live. 2015 had been a pretty good year and if it has been good to you, know that 2016 can and will get better and if this past year hasn’t been the greatest for you, get ready, a new beginning is coming your way.

James L.
"I destroy homes, tear families... apart - take your children, and that's just the start.
I'm more costly than diamonds, more costly than gold - the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.
And if you need me, remember I'm easily found.
I live all around you, in schools and in town.
I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street, and maybe next door.
My power is awesome - try me you'll see.
But if you do, you may never break free.
Just try me once and I might let you go, but try me twice, and I'll own your soul.
When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie.
You'll do what you have to just to get high.
The crimes you'll commit, for my narcotic charms, will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms.
You'll lie to your mother; you'll steal from your dad.
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.
But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised.
I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.
I take kids from parents, and parents from kids, I turn people from God, and separate from friends.
I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always, right by your side.
You'll give up everything - your family, your home, your friends, your money, then you'll be alone.
I'll take and I'll take, till you have nothing more to give.

When I'm finished with you you'll be lucky to live.
If you try me be warned this is no game.
If given the chance, I'll drive you insane.
I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind.
I'll own you completely; your soul will be mine.
The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed.
The voices you'll hear from inside your head.
The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see.
I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.
But then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart, that you are mine, and we shall not part.
You'll regret that you tried me, they always do.
But you came to me, not I to you.
You knew this would happen.
Many times you were told, but you challenged my power, and chose to be bold.
You could have said no, and just walked away.
If you could live that day over, now what would you say?
I'll be your master; you will be my slave.
I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave.
Now that you have met me, what will you do?
Will you try me or not?
Its all up to you.
I can bring you more misery than words can tell.
Come take my hand, let me lead you to hell.
Signed, DRUGS

Dear Addy, Dear Addy is a fictional character along the lines of Dear Abby. The opinion expressed here are reviewed by the newsletter committee and have the same review that any article in the newsletter would have. They are in no way the opinion of NA as a whole and are for entertainment purposes only. If you would like to submit a question to Addy, please submit your question to macombmiracles@yahoo.com

What is suggested, if anything, for those who partake and consider themselves members of more than one fellowship? Is there an upside to it, a downside, and what are they?

Dear Anonymous, Addy has strong feelings concerning this question but will try and answer as openly as possible. Narcotics Anonymous has a clarity statement that reads:

Clarity Statement: We are presented with a dilemma; when NA members identify themselves as addicts and alcoholics, or talk about living clean and sober, the clarity of the NA message is blurred. To speak in this manner suggests that there are two diseases, that one drug is somehow separate from the rest, requiring special recognition. Narcotics Anonymous makes no distinction between drugs. Our identification as addicts is all-inclusive, which allows us to concentrate on our similarities, not our differences.

We are addicts in NA and we have a disease called addiction. This allows us in NA to use the 12 Steps to help us recover from any addiction. I am addicted to anything that allows me to not stay in the moment, to not look at the real me, to escape from whatever it is that I want to escape from. It is not just Narcotics I am addicted to, or alcohol, gambling, sex, cigarettes, etc.... Our first step in NA states “We admitted that we are powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable” It goes on to read: “It doesn’t matter what or how much we used.”

I am a firm believer that if I follow the Narcotics Anonymous Twelve Steps and work them to the best of my ability, I do not need to be a member of any other fellowship. Addy I would suggest following this Tradition.

Dear Addy, Our Traditions says we’re supposed to maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, & films, but what about social media? Is it okay to post about my anniversaries and recovery? Sincerely, Anonymous

Dear Anonymous, Yes this is an issue today, we are a very open society now and with social media we are able to express our feelings and anything else in an instant. I know for me this can be a bad thing. I still sometimes react and express my feelings and thoughts out loud and may not exactly think things through before I react.

In the Basic Text Page 75 in the Sixth Edition it states:

This Tradition goes on to tell us that we need to maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, & films. This is to protect the membership and the reputation of Narcotics Anonymous. We do not give our last names nor appear in the media as a member of Narcotics Anonymous. No individual inside or outside the Fellowship represents Narcotics Anonymous. This was written before the internet was in use, it does state “we do not give our last names nor appear in the media as a member of Narcotics Anonymous.” It uses media which in today terms would include the internet, it is a form of media. I would say that if you use Facebook or other sites like that and you have it locked down to friends and family and it is not accessible by the general population then it would be like writing a letter or talking on the phone. If it is available to anyone then I would suggest following this Tradition. Addy

Shes a hoper not a doper

Signed, DRUGS
**Why Go to 90 in 90?**

The first few days and weeks after quitting drugs are usually the hardest, and it’s when newcomers are most likely to relapse. It’s also when newcomers are the most confused and overwhelmed by recovery. The importance of meetings in the first few weeks of recovery is to help newcomers get acquainted with NA and the 12 steps, and to help lay the groundwork for a strong foundation in recovery. One meeting per day for the first three months of recovery helps the newcomer stay focused on their recovery and committed to it, especially when they’re unsure what to do with free time that’s no longer devoted to using. Accomplishing 90 in 90 helps the newcomer gain confidence in themselves. It also gives them plenty of opportunity to socialize and begin building a strong new support network. That support is so important in the difficult first few months of recovery. Chemically, it can take three or more months for the brain to normalize itself after quitting drugs. The suggestion of 90 in 90 also speaks to the fact that many newcomers aren’t in their “right minds” yet and therefore may need extra support until they begin thinking more clearly. Most importantly, 90 in 90 has helped many newcomers stay clean, so it’s recommended because it works.

**Why Continue Going to Meetings?**

After a newcomer has made it through those difficult first three months, the importance of meetings doesn’t stop there. Going to meetings on a regular basis helps NA members stay strong and committed to their recovery. It helps members maintain a network of support within the rooms of NA, and it allows them to continue to grow and learn from the “experiences, strength, and hope” of others. Recovery is a lifelong process. Many people find that NA gives them stability and helps keep them clean, especially when life gets particularly stressful. Meetings keep them connected to their recovery, so that they stay grateful for their clean lifestyles and on the right path. Going to NA on a long-term basis also gives members the opportunity to help and support newcomers who are in the positions they used to be in, and helping others stay clean is one of the best ways to stay clean yourself.

Anonymous

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Today I have a life thanks to the NA program and the people among it.

I am offered a hug when I walk through the door; I am given a place to sit. I can listen to the message and I am even given a chance to share my experience, strength, and hopes. Actually I can share about anything I want!

My point is that these simple things are what I am grateful for. What a change from the past! Loving hugs were not a part of my daily routine, sharing and caring for others was unheard of! I was only given a seat if I had some money or drugs. If I saw a basket on a table with money I would try to take it rather than leave more money! I am grateful that I have been given another chance to live. When I was using I wasn’t living I was “Using.” A lot of this is still very uncomfortable, but I do the things I don’t like doing and it pays off! I don’t have the obsession to use anymore. I can enjoy everyday things, such as a smiling baby, nature, kids playing, everything that I didn’t care about before. It works if you work it.

I don’t use today because I don’t want to use. Today I didn’t even feel like writing this and I even told myself, “you don’t deserve to write, you don’t know what you’re talking about!” I realize most of my thinking is what brought me to the state of devastation I was in before I got clean. So I don’t rely on my good thinking. However, the program says that we can only keep what we have by giving it away!

Anonymous

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There were 23 reporting groups last month. The following groups reported concerns or had comments:

- White Flag – Receiving guidance from Outreach. Group is restructuring and will have a donation next month.
- Eastwood Clinic – Needs support.
- Let’s Get Better Together – Needs support and a GSR.
- Serenity on Sunday – Needs support. Meeting was closed on Dec. 20th.
- New Direction – As of December 9, 2015, meeting is closed. Searching for a new location. Input is greatly appreciated.
- Living Clean – New location, Northeast Church of Christ.
- It Works – Will be open on New Years Eve Thursday night.
- All in the Family – Requests trusted servants. The remaining 15 groups have no reported concerns/comments and are doing well.

If you would like to submit an item, Make sure that it is N.A or recovery related, 500 words or less. Anonymity is strongly advised (as far as naming names) By sending in any submissions you hereby grant permission to Macomb Miracles, their successors, assigns and those acting on their behalf authority to publish the attached original material and you understand that this material may be edited or reprinted in other NA journals. Each item will be checked and edited if needed and will become property of the Macomb Miracles. You can submit an item to the N.A. website www.michigan-na.org/macomb (good) or to your G.S.R (better) or to macombmiracles@yahoo.com (best).

We are looking for news, events, poetry, your story, your opinion, artwork, Questions for our new section “Dear Addy” or anything you think may be suitable. The newsletter “business meeting” meets on the last Thursday of every month at 7 pm before the “Today we live 2” group meeting.
**Upcoming Events**

It’s always best to get your events and announcements in early so we may print them and let the fellowship know what’s going on and to show that we do have fun without using. Any picnics, socials, open talks, ...any activities at all send them to:  
Macombmiracles@yahoo.com

To get a “Just For Today” Daily Meditation sent to your Email or phone everyday just go to this site and sign up! Just that easy.  
Go to NA.org Click on “service to members” Then click on “Just for today subscriptions”.  
366 daily meditations, one for everyday of the week

**From the Editor,**

My name is Jocelyn, I’m an addict,  
Thank you for picking up and reading the newsletters. Each month I try to add a fresh article for our front and inside page. I am looking for willingness from any one of you, we all have a story and your story could really help someone There is no clean time requirement to send stuff in for the newsletter. I need Articles, Poems, Anniversary dates, Art work, Dear Addy questions, flyers for upcoming events  
Send all submissions to: MacombMiracles@yahoo.com

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, ~Jocelyn D.