April Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Clean date</th>
<th>Years Clean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kermit C</td>
<td>04-08-2007</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen D.</td>
<td>04-10-2015</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
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<td>Marty K</td>
<td>04-05-1991</td>
<td>26 Years</td>
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<td>Frank K.</td>
<td>04-01-1992</td>
<td>25 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda M.</td>
<td>04-05-1998</td>
<td>19 Years</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jennifer M.</td>
<td>04-03-2008</td>
<td>9 Years</td>
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<td>Jeanne R.</td>
<td>04-15-2014</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie S.</td>
<td>04-10-2012</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance T.</td>
<td>10-08-2015</td>
<td>18 Months</td>
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</table>

Check out the Michigan Service Office!
729 Livernois Ferndale, MI 48220 (248)543-2010 M.S.O. Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs-10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-6pm

NA Merchandise
Gifts, Books, book covers, Shirts, Jewelry, medallions and so much more!!

From the Editor...

Happy Spring! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at the “Hop in to Spring” Dance! A special thank you to the Activities Committee for putting together another wonderful event for us!

Macomb County is a very big area, which means there are a lot of us members of Narcotics anonymous in just this area. Although there are so many of us, unfortunately there is not enough willingness. Service work is a big part of recovery. Yes, I’m sure some of you can go on without doing service but it is important for our recovery to give back what was given to us.

That’s what this newsletter is for. This is YOUR newsletter, use it to share your experience, strength and hope. It’s simple, just send your submissions to: MacombMiracles@yahoo.com

Thank you for allowing me to continue to be of service, your newsletter Chair, ~Joelody D. Love You!

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Volume 17 Issue 4

Macomb Miracles
Newsletter of the Macomb County Area of Narcotics Anonymous

Living With Someone Who Has Clean Time But No Recovery

Having a little over four months clean and practicing the program has allowed me to see the world. I’m learning new ways to live, love and even laugh. Sounds silly from an outside perspective but it’s the open honest truth. I went into this with my partner as an attempt to mend what was broken back together. So upon starting this journey I had an early on relapse, while he kept dedicating himself and his time to recovery.

The self-defining moment when I accepted I had been living a lie in recovery about my clean date was at the closing of a meeting. Someone I highly look up to whose also in the program battling cancer and whopping but while doing so closed the meeting like this, “Who knows our real clean date?” We all replied with “God, Grant me the serenity” and continued with the rest of the prayer. I knew at that moment I had to come clean and be truthful to my sponsor and accept my clean date of two weeks later. I’ve since been part of the “no matter what” club. I don’t just have clean time, I have recovery.

I had mentioned that my partner and I went into this together. In the beginning he started to gain recovery and did all the right things. Took suggestions, went to meetings and eventually got a sponsor. Slowly but surely the “sparkle” of recovery started to fade out for him and his interest faded. He became full of denial that he belonged there with doubt that his addiction was as bad as everyone else’s. In the first step that’s one of the first questions you have to answer. He has since started to do it “his way” versus the programs way, which has lead him to a current path of clean time but no recovery. Which history shows all of us through other members who relapse that doing it your way on your own terms is not as effective as the programs way. Everyone one of us is different and I truly understand that but living in a life of denial and reservations only leads us back out.

This is proving to be a hard thing to handle in my own personal recovery. I am soing in the light of the program grabbing up all the information and suggestions I receive. I am not naive to the gift that has been given to me. I don’t see life as being bared or mundane. While he sees it as spending his life not doing what he wants to do and being able to live how he would like. A smart woman once told me that in recovery your either going to attract people by what your doing or push them away, my heart has to accept this might not go my way. I guard my recovery with everything I have and have since set standards on my living in the “real world.” With him being so loose with his choices to guard himself from a potential relapse, it separates us whole heartedly.

Something that was intended to help better us is in the end separating us immensely.

Now he is mostly supportive of my practice of recovery, with helping with my kid while I go to meetings without a babysitter. I have since limited the ones I go to anymore because I am unsure of how truthful his situation really is. From about 60 days in, he started to come out of the seclusion of the program and tossed himself into sticky situations that me at 130 days don’t even dare do myself.

Again I truthfully understand each and everyone is responsible for their program not anyone else’s. My program is just that… mine and his was… you guessed it, his. I am finding myself a new way to live, new ways to have fun and new friends who actually care about me and don’t use, all the while he’s hanging with people in active addiction, almost on the daily. Using justifications to answer any skeptical thoughts I may have. It truly is challenging to have someone not in this full force with you. You have to wonder which way it all is going to go. Clean time is not the same as recovery. Anyone can put down the bottle or the drugs. Recovery comes when you better your disease. Learn how to deal with it in the day to day and fight the insanity that comes along with it hand in hand. When you challenge yourself for new routines, friends, living in the depth of recovery and not your disease, that is when change starts to happen. Otherwise your sitting on the sidelines for relapse waiting for that opportune moment when it seems like you have waited long enough for it to be okay to go back.

Step one, I am powerless in any ones recovery other than my own. If I can pass a tip to anyone out there who needs it, it would simply be don’t give up on yourself. If you have given all you can in a situation like mine, that’s simply all you can do. Keep doing the next right thing, there are people in the program who truly care and will whole heartedly listen to your struggles. You, just like I, are not alone.

-An addict searching for a better tomorrow <3
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. There is no Dear Addy this month because I have not received any questions for Addy. If you would like to submit a recovery related question to Addy, please send your question to MacombMiracles@yahoo.com

-Newsletter Committee-