



United States Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous

www.usscna.org



USSC SUBCOMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE

Technology

Phone # (559) 726-1300 / Access Code 877259#
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:00PM Eastern

Public Information

Phone # (559) 726-1300 / Access Code 586963#
3rd Sunday of the Month at 9:00PM Eastern

Budget & Finance

Phone # (530) 881-1400 / Access Code 868308#
2nd Saturday of the Month at 9:30PM Eastern

Administrative Committee

Phone # (209)647-1600 / Access Code 968584#
1st Tuesday of the Month at 9:30PM Eastern

Guardian Committee

Phone # (209) 647-1600 / Access Code 879096#
April 4, 2015 at Noon Eastern

Outreach

Phone # (559) 726-1300 / Access Code 268565#
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month 9:30PM
Eastern

Conference Planning

Phone # (559) 726-1300 / Access Code 907861#
4th Wednesday of the Month at 8:00PM Eastern

Service Material Development & Distribution (SMD&D)

Phone # (605) 562-3140 / Access Code 1025123#
2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:00PM Eastern

United States National Service Board (USNSB)

This Committee is presently inactive

Additional Needs

Phone # (805) 399-1200 / Access Code 108418#
2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:00PM
Eastern

Hospitals & Institutions

Phone # (209) 647-1600 / Access Code 442279#
2nd Tuesday of the Month at 9:00PM Eastern

Let every group's conscience be heard



*United States Service Conference
of Narcotics Anonymous IV (USSCNA)
October 23-25, 2015*



The USSCNA is an idea whose time has come. We are groups of addicts from across America who have come together in the spirit of unity and loving service to further our primary purpose. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Marriott Courtyard New York LaGuardia Airport

9010 Ditmars Blvd, East Elmhurst, NY 11369 USA

Reservations online at: <http://cwp.marriott.com/lgaca/usscna>

For phone reservations call: 1 -800-321-2211

For the \$135 special rate, mention USSUSSA for a King Bed, \$139.00 USSUSSE for 2 Double Beds.

Contact: Emilio 551-225-4138~ Brownie 347-784-6101

www.usscna.org

REGISTRATION: \$15.00 in advance. *(Online Registration and more information also available at [usscna.org](http://www.usscna.org))*

Make Checks or Money Orders Payable To: USSCNA

Detach this portion of registration and mail with Check or Money Order to:
USSCNA, PO Box 8378, Rockford, IL. 61126

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Registration: _____ x \$15.00 _____

E-mail address: _____

Registration is \$20.00 at the conference.

A Different Perspective

Membership questions (in bold print) to the United States Service Committee

“Noticed that the group doesn't have a registry number but the service representative does.”

Actually, all registered groups have a unique code designated only for that group. When a representative votes, our system matches the individual representative with the group he/she has registered.

“What's to stop a power driver or a group of sick individuals from registering blocks of groups with the intent to control which motions pass or not?”

Our current registration system is not “fool-proof”. Individuals that oversee the registration process, to date, have not had this situation occur. If a situation were to occur that appeared to look odd, our trusted servants would bring this situation to light with the USSC Administrative Committee as a whole, and, if necessary, appropriate action would be taken.

“What assurances can you give my home group that we are really a part of a true group conscience?”

The only true assurance that can be given is that the USSC strictly adheres to the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Narcotics Anonymous. We have not come across any situations thus far, that would compromise group conscience. We cannot emphasize enough that “as long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.”

In Loving Service,
USSC Technology Subcommittee Chairperson

“Just learned about the USSCNA; Am an AD in my region & am interested in just what this conference has accomplished since its formation. What regular services has the conference provided, and to whom?”

I would like to personally thank you for your service to your region and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. The idea of a United States National service platform was born in January 2011 in Marion, NC. This idea has since matured into what is now known as the United States Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous (USSCNA). Not unlike other service bodies in NA, our annual conference is overseen by the United States Service Committee (USSC). The composition of our committee is made up of Administrative Officers, Subcommittee Chairs and registered group representatives who are the voting members at our annual conference.

As you probably are aware of, when World Services consolidated to a single unified board in the 1990's, all World Services Committees were discontinued. The USSC has re-established these as subcommittees of the USSC.

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We have brought back to the Fellowship of the United States, updated service related materials such as the Hospitals and Institutions Handbook, Public Information Handbook, Outreach and Additional Needs Handbooks as well as other service oriented literature to assist our local fellowships in becoming stronger and more unified. The USSCNA is a viable resource and continues to strive toward helping our local fellowships. I invite you to visit our website at; www.usscna.org where a plethora of information lays at your fingertips. When you visit our website, please pay particular attention to the links to our Newsletter. The information available in these Newsletters will prove invaluable in bringing you “up to speed” about the USSCNA. Please go to our “contact us” page and subscribe to our Newsletter to keep abreast of the things goings on in the USSCNA.

In Loving Service,
USSC Administrative Chairperson

Conference Bidding Procedures

The following procedural guidelines are taken directly from the USSC Service Guide

- A. The USSCNA is to be held each October.
 - B. The next host city must be at least 500 miles from the last hosting city.
 - C. Hosting site should be near a major airport.
 - D. All bids must be submitted in writing and given to the Chair before or at the annual Conference for consideration.
 - E. Bids should include city location, hotel location, distance of airport to hotel, and reasonable estimate of pricing of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms.
 - F. All bids will be considered in open discussion at the USSCNA and will be voted on by the existing membership either in the room and/or on the conferencing phone line at the Conference before the close of business. The ultimate decision rests with Conference Planning Committee and Administration Committee. (See Article VIII of the USSC Guidelines)
 - G. It is imperative that each hosting city maintain an organized, dignified atmosphere where the business of the USSC is conducted
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USSCNA Membership Logistics

This section contains the number of registered groups per state.

Alabama	1	Indiana	1	Nebraska		South Carolina		
Alaska		Iowa		Nevada	1	South Dakota		
Arizona	1	Kansas	3	New Hampshire		Tennessee	11	
Arkansas	1	Kentucky	3	New Jersey	4	Texas		
California	3	Louisiana		New Mexico		Utah	30	
Colorado		Maine		New York	11	Vermont	1	
Connecticut		Maryland		North Carolina	7	Virginia	4	
Delaware		Massachusetts	1	North Dakota		Washington D.C.		
Florida	7	Michigan	4	Ohio	1	Washington		
Georgia	1	Minnesota		Oklahoma	1	West Virginia		
Hawaii		Mississippi		Oregon		Wisconsin	14	
Idaho	1	Missouri	9	Pennsylvania	10	Wyoming	5	
Illinois	7	Montana		Rhode Island				

The Fellowship's Point of View

(Articles from members of Narcotics Anonymous)

Tradition One

“Our Common Welfare should come first. Personal Recovery depends on NA Unity”

“Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us”. (Basic Text 6th Edition, page 61) I choose to open this essay on Tradition One with this quote from our B/T for a reason. I believe that Tradition One is first and speaks to unity for this very reason, because without unity we can destroy ourselves from the internal controversies that we now see daily in Narcotics Anonymous. But what is unity? While there are multiple definitions of unity, I see the following from Merriam Webster as the most accurate in defining the unity of NA: a totality of related parts: an entity that is a complex or systematic whole. With that being said, we need to look at NA as a whole. It is made up of a multitude of parts; the member, the group, our service committees and our corporation, NAWS, Inc. Each has a particular function that makes Narcotics Anonymous a viable program of recovery for the any sick and suffering addict. However, each piece of this program has a particular function that forms the unity we so desperately need into a cohesive unit that allows us to recover together.

Working our way down, we can look at our members first. Each of us comes to NA a broken or severely damaged individual. As we recover using the steps we slowly become whole again and develop skills and experience that we share with other members. While the answer we seek to find to make us whole are basically all the same, the equation isn't the same for everyone. We all know that $5+4=9$, but so does $6+3$, $13-4$, $81/9$ and 3×3 . The answer is still 9 no matter what process we use. Our experiences are like the processes: we all come to same answer; recovery from addiction through the program of Narcotics Anonymous, but our experiences of the journey may be quite different. As our process of recovery continues, we end up finding and joining a HG and we bond with other recovering addicts who may have quite a different journey to not only arrive at NA but to find solutions in much different experiences they I may have. I doubt very much if I would ever have used with any of my current HG members but that doesn't mean I can't bond with them, recover with them and together we can find a way to insure our message is presented in a way that allows anyone who walks through our door the opportunity to hear what they need to hear in a way that allows them to hear it. Our unity of purpose gives others the hope that we are examples of.

At this juncture, I think it important to remember that for me, unity and uniformity are not the same thing. Merriam Webster defines uniformity as: the quality or state of being the same: the quality or state of being uniform or identical. The only thing uniform is Narcotics Anonymous is that we use a time proven program of recovery to stop using, lose the desire to use and find a new way to live, but again, I stress that we can have many different ways of processing through that program of recovery. As a group we join with other groups to form service committees that provide services that are too large or complex for the individual member or group to offer. Again, our diversity as members is the single most important tool we bring to a service committee.

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By sharing our experiences and being willing to compliment the other members of our service bodies and not dominate them, we bring a broad spectrum of experiences to our common goals; better carrying the NA message through Public Information, Hospitals and Institutions, Outreach and any of the other service bodies or committees our groups may see fit to form. However, we need to remember that demographics, local customs, and resources define how groups form committees and the unity of the first Tradition should mean we support their choices unless and until they no longer are used as a vehicle of better carrying our message. We should never feel in competition with other service bodies or how they are formed. We all have the same goal; carry the message of NA to the still sick and suffering addict. The message hasn't changed in over 60 years and there is no room in unity for fear or ego. Far too often today I see, hear and read from members how they know what is best for NA, younger members don't understand the complexities of carrying the NA message today and we need to delegate the decisions to a select group of people. That in my opinion doesn't promote unity. Neither does being a part of a splinter group that doesn't like how services are formed and carried out and tries to promote their brand of service in Narcotics Anonymous. If we stay focused on the fact that our message remains the same, respect each other and the right of the groups to make the decisions for what is best for them and stop belittling and trying to dominate how groups should act and form their service bodies, and then we can foster and promote that unity though out Narcotics Anonymous. Unified we recover, and without each other we set ourselves up for a slow death.

For the Fellowship

(United States Service Committee & Subcommittee Reports)

Administrative Committee:

April 26, 2015 will be here before we know it!!

All motions are to be submitted to the USSCNA Chairperson 180 days prior to the next scheduled conference. Our Service Guide states that motions can only be submitted and seconded by voting members (registered groups). Any group wishing to submit a motion, please complete the Motion Form, you can get this form from the USSCNA.org website. Submit your motion form to the USSCNA Chairperson, email address is www.admin@usscna.org. The deadline for submitting motions to be considered is April 26, 2015.

In Loving Service,
USSC Administrative Committee

Additional Needs Subcommittee:

Hello all! The following is a scenario we have been hearing from across the U.S.:

An NA meeting is about to start. A member walks into the meeting with a dog. NA member #1 shouts: GET THAT DOG OUT OF HERE!!! NA member #2 shouts: OMG! A dog! and throws himself at the dog to pet and hug on the dog. Other members yell things like: People could be allergic to the dog! Dogs are not allowed in this meeting! What about the children? Leave that dog outside!

Now, this particular member with the dog has the dog in a vest that says "Service Dog". There is at least one patch on the vest that says "Do Not Pet". What does a meeting do in this case? Several meetings have reported that they told the member he could not bring his dog inside! Are these the correct responses? What can meetings do?

If the dog was indeed a service dog and the member (who is also, by law, considered the dog's handler) is indeed the disabled person, then the meeting may well have broken the law and could even be sued! Under the Federal Law, Americans with Disabilities Act, and even many state laws about service dog access, the meeting could also be criminally charged. So, knowing how to handle these situations becomes very important.

So how does a meeting tell if a dog is a service dog and should be allowed in the meeting? First, we need to understand what public access for service dogs is. Simply put, any public place the handler is allowed, so is the service dog. Second, it is the handler that has the public access – not the dog. The dog can only be there because the handler is there. Third, and most important, the handler MUST have a disability that the dog has trained tasks to aid. This dog should be highly trained and obedient, quiet (unless specifically doing a task to aid the disability) and potty trained.

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There are other jobs that dogs have that people frequently confuse with a service dog. They mistakenly believe they have the same rights as a service dog handler. One in particular is called an Emotional Support Animal (ESA). These are comfort dogs (and other animals) that doctors may prescribe to give comfort to the owners. These animals do not have any trained tasks to help the disability, nor have to have any training whatsoever. The ESAs are not allowed public access and the laws specifically state this. Other questions I have been asked are:

1) Does the person have to tell us their disability? By Federal law, a disabled person does not have to tell their disability.

2) How do I know it is a service dog? Doesn't a service dog have to have registration or certification?

Federal law specifically states that no registration or certification is required or can be asked. Registrations, on the whole, are fake. No proof is needed to buy a registration. Certifications may be issued by some service dog training organizations. There are 2 questions meeting trusted servants can ask the handler to determine if the dog is permitted: 1) Is the dog a service dog? and 2) What trained task does the dog do to mitigate the disability? It is highly suggested to ask just the second question to determine if the dog is a service dog. Remember, the handler is not required to tell the disability, but they are required to tell the task the dog does. If the member says "comforts me", then the dog is an ESA and not permitted in the meeting. If the member says, for examples, guide dog, hearing dog, mobility, counterbalance, medical alert and can tell you one trained task the dog does for these disabilities, then the dog meets the law criteria. Also, the dog must be obedient, next to the handler, quiet and potty trained.

3) What about people with allergies? By law, allergies are not a legal reason to exclude a service dog. The service dog handler and the member with allergies should make an agreement on what would be the best for both parties. Usually, making sure both parties sit away from each other is a good solution.

If, during the meeting, the dog does become a problem, the handler should remove the dog, settle him and then can bring him back in the meeting. If the dog continues to be a problem, the handler should be allowed to remove the dog and return to the meeting. The handler should respect the atmosphere of recovery.

Because meetings can be in any type of building, and in any state, there is not a one size fits all solution to all service dog situations. Please feel free to contact your Additional Needs subcommittee if you need any additional help, or your situation was not addressed in this newsletter.

Please contact us at any time for information or guidance. You can email us at addneed@usscna.org. Or, you can attend the next phone line meeting on the 2nd Wed of every month at 8 pm EST. Conference Call phone: 805 399 1200, Access code 108418.

In loving service,
USSCNA Additional Needs Subcommittee

Conference Planning Subcommittee:

The Conference Planning subcommittee announces the 2015 USSCNA Conference IV. It will convene in New York City on Oct. 23 – 25. The contract for the hotel has been finalized and we are working to put together what we hope will be the best Conference yet! We are expecting many more new faces and a new level of participation. Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to New York City now! We look forward to seeing you there!

ILS,

Conference Planning

Public Information Subcommittee:

The USSC Public Information Subcommittee is ramping up for 2015 with lots of activity. Our new Vice Chair is in place and working hard. We invite input from any NA member by contacting us at pi@usscna.org and/or joining us on our monthly PI Conference call third Sunday of every month at 9:00 PM EST. Phone: 559-726-1300 Access Code: 586963#

A set of videos to be used by any interested PI Subcommittee on “How to Build an NA Website A-Z” is now posted for review and input at www.usscna.org under the Services Tab under the Public Information Section. A new document called “Why PI” is now posted under the Forum Section of the website for review and input from the fellowship. A new Facebook page for USSC-PI is in the works and we are exploring other forms of communication through social media.

We are also beginning a project to reach out to Public Information Subcommittees throughout the country to ask for, and share support for, the creation of an Information Network and Local Resources Data Base that can be utilized by all of the PI Committees in our Fellowship. Some of the objectives would be the creation of a communication network to connect all of the PI Committees with each other and the creation of an information network and local resources data base that can be utilized by all of the PI Committees.

We invite you all to support us in our efforts to develop resources that will help support all of the local and regional PI committees in fulfilling our primary purpose in carrying the message to the addict that still suffers.

ILS,

USSC-PI

Technology Subcommittee:

Since USSCNA III in Greensboro, NC the technology committee has started to work on some of the items mentioned at the conference by our members. First is the newly formatted newsletter, the USSC Journal, has been created, input and comments are welcome. Second item mentioned and identified in our sub-committee inventory was to update the USSCNA website. This project is now underway with several members participating.

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It has been mentioned by some that a discussion forum would be helpful concerning the F.R.O.M. (fellowship review of motions) so that all viewpoints can be shared with voting members. This is in its early development stage; more will be revealed in the coming months about new features of the updated website.

Our conference call day and time has changed to the 4th Tuesday of the month @ 9pm eastern. We have vacant positions to be filled, Vice Chair and secretary plus a co- web coordinator.

ILS

USSCNA Technology Chair
