

SOUTH SUBURBAN FIRESIDE AREA NEWSLETTER

August, 2007

Mailing Address: South Suburban Fireside Area
Como Station PO Box 8089 St. Paul, MN 55708

Area Meeting:

1st Thursday of every month, at 7pm, at
First Presbyterian Church
535 20th Ave N.
South Saint Paul, MN 55075

Website: www.ssfa.naminnnesota.org

PIG!!! :

PIG 2007 was definitely a blast this year! I would like to personally thank everyone who helped out in any way. Your collective efforts helped put on a wonderful spiritually refreshing weekend. Both speakers traveled far outside their areas to carry the message and they both did a great job of carrying the message. Stay tuned to the website and the newsletter for information about **PIG 2008**. I asked a couple fellow addicts to share about their pig experience.

Alex R:

This was my first year at pig. Yes that made me a pig virgin! I rode down there with a good friend of mine. I was not planning on going but some of my friends talked me into it. I'm really glad I went because I met more addicts there then I ever did in the little over a year I have been clean. I liked the first speaker, what he shared really made an impact on my life. The people were great and the food was awesome. I'm glad that people took time out of their schedules to put it on. To those who have not been to pig I really suggest you go.



Kris B:

As in years past I ran into old friends and made new friends. Friends from miles away converged on the Pow Wow Campground in Gaylord, MN. It was amazing to see everyone. The pig experience sure has changed over the years. It started on a small farm in Rochester, everyone pitched in, there were not entry fees, entertainment was simpler with addicts entertaining addicts and expecting nothing but a good time in return. There was talk of recovery and off color jokes, one addict enjoying another without a struggle. Wow, how amazing. Pig wasn't a function it was a get together. It wasn't complicated and had no entry fees, everyone joined in. It was a good idea that grew to a wide spread get together and we as addicts can complicate the simplest things. Pig has definitely changed over the years.

Friday night's speaker happened to be a personal friend of mine from Kansas. I enjoyed what he had to say, I think more so because I know about the struggle it took just to get here. Determination took over. They wanted to make this get together to see friends and share recovery. I'm glad they made it. Saturday night's speaker was a man I heard about back in the day whose name caused shivers. I thought he was dead. I really didn't think he could make it out of the life alive. I was right in one sense... the man I only heard about died when he found recovery...the man he is now is a miracle, just like the rest of us. As long winded as Benny L. is, it was worth sitting there and almost peeing my pants because I didn't want to miss a word. Now that's a speaker.

Hospitals and Institutions:

“Na’s primary purpose is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Its not surprising then that carrying the message into Hospitals and Institutions is one of our top priorities”

H&I is still looking for addicts to carry the message. They are also in need of a Co-Chair. H&I meets every second Sunday of the month at 8:30 at first Presbyterian church 535 20th Ave S. South Saint Paul, MN 55075 pleas contact Brent F. if you would like to partake in H&I 651-276-6050

Monthly Tradition:

Tradition Eight “Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers May employ special workers.”

The success of Narcotics Anonymous is defined by one addict helping another; through there own experience, strength and hope. *“If we employed professionals in N.A. groups it would destroy our unity.”* (Basic Text pg. 69) The Basic Text also defines the difference between special workers and professionals: *“Professionals work in specific professions that do not directly serve N.A., but for personal gain. Professionals do not follow the N.A. Traditions. Our special workers, on the other hand, work within our Traditions and are always responsible to those they serve, the fellowship.”* (Basic Text pg. 69 & 70) A service center is defined by our Basic Text as a place where N.A. services operate. My interpretation of this tradition is that service committees and conferences, or any place other than the Group level, may employ people to further our primary purpose. The employed workers are directly responsible to the committee

they serve. Being the Group is the highest level of service, a Group should only be served by an addict looking to help another through their experience, strength and hope.

Thanks Kevin M.!

NA News:

MNNAC is looking for trusted servants. They meet the first Sunday of every month...Contact Vicky for more info. (651-457-5261)

ACTVITIES: Please contact activities chair Brenda V if you are interested putting on an activity or fund raiser for the SSFA. (651-329-4697)

If you would like to share your personal story or write about the monthly step or tradition, or if you have any suggestions at all, please contact:

Outreach Chair Geoff D.

Phone: 612-309-6304

Email: Rollermasterg@msn.com