

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM

Afghanistan – Aotearoa New Zealand – Australia – Bangladesh – Bahrain – Bhutan – Cambodia – China – Hawaii
Hong kong – India Indonesia – Iran – Japan – Kuwait – Malaysia – Maldives – Nepal – NERF – Oman – Pakistan North
Pakistan South (NAP) – Philippines – Saudi Arabia – Singapore – Thailand – UAE – Viet Nam

A Network of  Communities

www.apfna.org

Issue # 43 - January 2017

Greetings and Welcome to our 43rd Edition of the APF Newsletter. This issue is dedicated to our 2017 Conference, our 1st APF Convention and includes some APF History related articles. We are excited about our onward journey and look forward to hearing from more of you in the future.

The next edition will report on our basic decisions at the Conference, welcoming new members, election results and our celebration of recovery. We will be looking for graphics, photos and firsthand stories of your experience. Of course we'd love to include your clean date and if your community has an upcoming event, please inform us. As always you may contact the APF Newsletter Team: apf-news@nzna.org

Inside

Message from the Chairperson

APF Updates

Articles

China Magic

Early Days

Postcard from the Past

Did you Know ?

Sub Committee Reports

Fellowship Development

Upcoming Events

Convention Anyone?

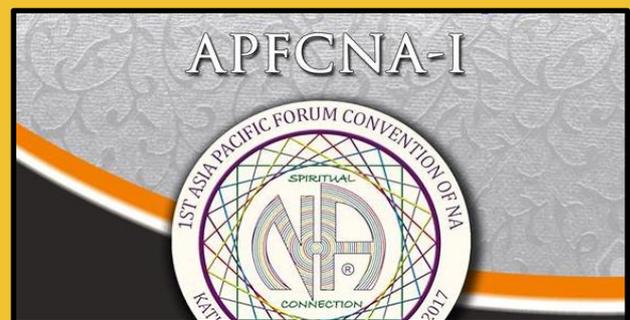
Clean Dates

Do we have your milestone ?

We Need Your Help

The Kathmandu Convention Committee cordially invites you to register prior to the event. This enables us to get a headcount and pay necessary "upfront" fees.

For our International visitors, there will be place on the website to add your name & info with no money involved. Thank you in advance.



For more information, pre-registration and lodging visit:

<http://www.apfcna.org>

A Message from the Chairperson



It would be truly difficult going through all the achievements the APF trusted servants have gone through and surpassed in the past year. Yet, it would also be extremely difficult to hide it as well. Like a shining bright star, each individual has huddled together and put in the effort to push the APF where it has not been before.

I would not want to mention each and every achievement; otherwise, this would be too long to read. But I will go through the bullet points as briefly as I can.

So, updates on what to expect in Nepal 2017.

Our beloved strategic planning along with admin will be working on the agenda, in anticipation to further our set goals from the past two years.

The newsletter workgroup has done a tremendous job on these issues, and trust me when I say, it was not easy! Maybe most of us don't know, but they have been through struggles, and little misfortunes working on these, and yet, they continue to astonish me on how they push through, and get it done. So kudos to the newsletter committee!!

Money matters, web servant and merchandise are also working on little surprises to make things a little more efficient and beautiful for the APF which I would not go into now until they are done.

APF delegates have been extremely helpful and hands on, their communications and service towards the APF has been inspiring.

That is pretty much the pie. Now for the cherry on top! APF is pleased to announce its very first, very highly anticipated convention hosted by our beloved Nepalese community, who along with admin and other trusted servants have been putting in extra hard work to make this into a tipping point for the APF.

Now this year, I want to take the opportunity to invite everyone who gets this issue of the newsletter, to join the APF family in making its history. I truly believe we are all outliers, and I would want to see this event as such with all of us and everyone's support.

With extreme pleasure and gratefulness

Hammed – APF Chair

China Magic

This is one of those magical moments. A few years ago, I met a woman in Beijing while on my way to Siberia. I asked around to find out if there were any meetings or recovering addicts in Beijing since I was passing through. The reports I got back were that there were no meetings, but a friend put out some feelers on his contact list and I got an email from a woman who said she was an addict and was living in Beijing. We made a plan to meet along with a translator.

Our meeting was great. I found out she had been clean eight years. I travel a lot in the Asia Pacific, and I hadn't heard of any Chinese citizens who had been clean that long, so I asked her how she got clean. She told me she had been in prison and saw a translated NA White Booklet on the warden's desk; she asked what it was and the warden gave it to her. She read it and said to the warden, "I think this can work for me." As we talked, I asked if I could videotape our conversation. She agreed, and I asked if I could share her message at the World Convention in San Diego, California, where tens of thousands of recovering members would see it. She agreed, and the video was shown at WCNA 34. Many people were touched by her message of hope that one day NA would be available all over China.

Fast-forward to this past February. I walked into the opening of the APF (Asia Pacific Forum) held in Bangkok, Thailand—just as this same woman was giving a report from her country. I had not had any communication with her since all those years ago in Beijing. When we saw each other, we had one of those spontaneous outpourings of emotion.

What was even more magical was that she was there representing mainland China—the first time a native Chinese member had attended the APF. There was also another Chinese woman at the APF from Hong Kong. Neither knew the other one existed until meeting at this APF. They have become fast friends.

Sometimes I am asked why I am still so involved in NA service and what keeps that flame burning so strongly. Need I say more?

Tom M, Hawai'i, USA

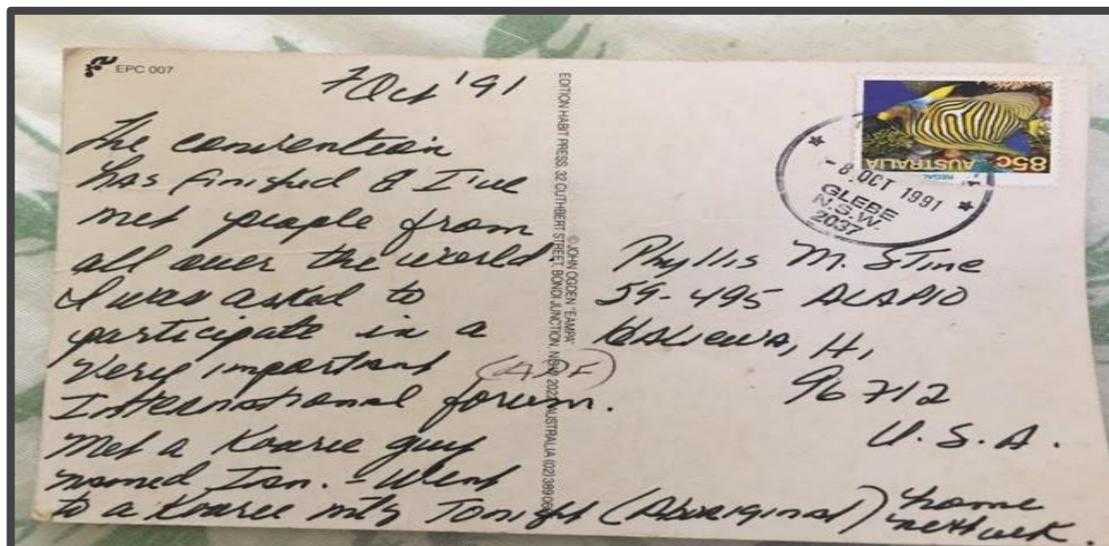
The NA Way Magazine, July 2016

(re-printed with permission from NA Way)



Postcard From The Past

I came across this postcard sent to myself in October, 1991. It was the end of the World Convention in



Australia called "The Gift". There are memories of a small group getting together to discuss a new International thing called a Zonal Forum. Turns out it was APF and I was invited. We're still here 29 Communities and 27 years later!

Phyllis S - Hawaii

Asia Pacific Forum Annual Meeting - March 2017

Planning is well under way for our annual meeting in Kathmandu, 6th to 9th of March 2017!

Venue: Hotel Shanker in Kathmandu, Nepal: <http://www.shankerhotel.com.np/>.

Participant info: Thank you to all the communities who have submitted the Participant Request Form, this information is crucial to help your Admin Committee plan and budget for the meeting. Our Treasurer will be in contact with those who have requested funding assistance for their attendance.

Hotel bookings: The Admin Committee are making hotel bookings on behalf of delegates. For all other participants and visitors wishing to attend or to stay on for the convention and use our negotiated room rate, please use booking code APFCN17 when booking rooms.

Elections: Elections for the positions of Treasurer, Fellowship Development Co-ordinator, Merchandise Chair, and Newsletter Editor will take place at the 2017 APF meeting.

Reports: We are requesting that all Community, Workgroup and Trusted Servant reports be emailed no later than one month before the start of the March meeting - so by the 6th of February, to allow all delegates the opportunity to read them in preparation for the meeting.

For more details on the 2017 meeting, including airport transfers, NA meetings, restaurants, and links to documents (report templates, service resume forms and more) please visit:

<http://www.apfna.org/2017apf/>

Early Days



I was first introduced to the APF in 1997 in Hawaii. The members explained that the APF was a forum of NA members from the Asia Pacific Basin who have a common interest of uniting the fellowship in Asian communities. We have surpassed that! I attended the APF meeting at the World Service Conference in 1998 and was elected Treasurer. At that time the only funded position was the Chairperson, and our funds were generated by merchandise, some community contributions and NAWS. In 1998, I attended the Japanese Convention in Nagoya. The following year, Japan received their first keychains in their own language.

In March 1999, I attended the APF in Bangkok. There was a big PR event with many professions including social workers. We held our first women's meeting and invited the social workers. Seventeen women from all over the world attended the meeting, however, there were no Thai women. This was important because the social workers believed women didn't need treatment like the men. They left with a deeper understanding of women in recovery and that addiction is not gender specific. Today, there are Thai women who are members of NA and staying clean.

One of the highlights of that meeting were the discussions about cultural sensitivity. Resolution A was introduced with the following objectives: reduce the total number of representatives at the World Service Conference, provide equal representation from all geographic entities and encourage the consensus-based decision process. This would eventually affect the zones and how they are represented in our World Service Structure. At that meeting, updates were given for Korea, Kathmandu, Nepal, and Guam with a commitment to continue carrying the message.

Today, Nepal, NERF, India, Philippines, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Japan, Iran and Hawai'i are seated at the World Service Conference from our Zone. We are a strategic zone made up of members from all over the world and are financially solvent. The APF has evolved, and our future has no limits on what we can accomplish. I was so excited when we became financially sustainable and developed a Fellowship Development Committee. We have moved toward a consensus in our discussions, and we have workgroups. China is seated, and they have a functioning LTC. During APF 2016 held in Bangkok, we handed out the Thai Basic Text, and the Thai Fellowship had their first Basic Text Meeting during the Unity Day. Goosebumps, chicken skin - whatever you want to call it. I call it *unity* created by passion and love! I could go on and on but I won't. Lastly, I would like to mention that our own Tim S. was elected to the World Board.

In summary, I am in deep gratitude for everyone over the years who has contributed and are committed to carrying our message all over the world. "We arrive at Narcotics Anonymous hoping for survival. What we find is love, courage, a sense of connection, and a sense of direction." (*Living Clean* pg. 81). Through a Higher Power all things are possible.

Tali M

Kaua'i, Hawai'i USA

FD Workgroup Update

The Fellowship Development (FD) Subcommittee/Workgroup Report comes in two sections—a report of FD activities and a report of the work it has done on its guidelines. The guideline work is too long for the newsletter. It will be presented at the March meeting. For the newsletter, it is good to note that all the work of our FD team is inspired by its stated goals from the guidelines which are:



Fellowship Development: To encourage and support Fellowship Development efforts within the Asia Pacific zone. Fellowship Development is not PI or PR. Our job is to educate emerging communities about who and what NA is, what we can do to support them, and how they can grow to become part of the whole.

The Fellowship Development we do is not just the workshop or the meeting or the weekend trip. It is the exchanging of love with the upcoming community. It is the investment of our heart in NA with those who need to know they are not alone and to share the message about how 'together we can!'

Working toward that goal the FD subcommittee/workgroup held a series of meetings and completed two FD trips.

These are reported here.

I

The 3rd Fellowship Development meeting of APF FD Workgroup was held in June 2016. The budget for the year was \$6,000 (US).

The priorities for the year were:

1] South Pakistan/Karachi. The difficulty of arranging travel to and from Iran required delaying this trip. It was originally scheduled before Holy Ramadan. It was rescheduled to follow that Holy Observance.

2]Indonesia/Jakarta. This was scheduled to coincide with the Jakarta NA Area Convention in mid-August.

3] UAE/Dubai. This was also scheduled for August as many Iranians will be traveling there for personal reasons and can easily add fellowship development activities to their personal trips.

4] NAMEC IV (4th NA Middle East Convention). Due to scheduling, an update will be submitted at the March Conference.

II

At the 4th Fellowship Development Workgroup Meeting the Pakistan trip and the Indonesia trip had taken place. The Pakistan/Karachi trip cost \$1,500.

The Indonesia/Jakarta trip cost \$1,800.

The result is a remaining budget of \$2,700. Both these trips relied heavily on self funded participation. Paolo from Manila and Danny from Bali funded their participation in Jakarta.

Ehsan and Mahmoud funded their participation in Pakistan joined by Javad funded by APF.

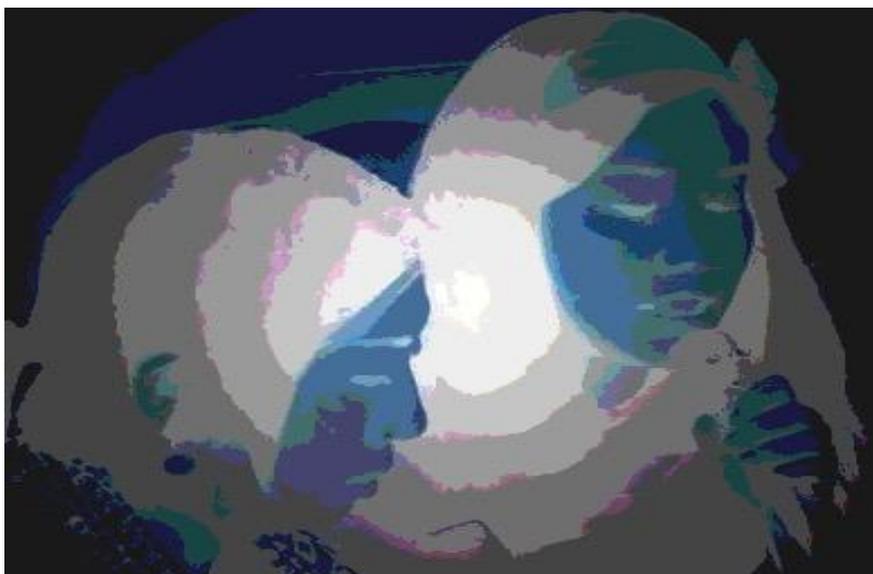
There were a number of other possible fellowship development trips scheduled for this year;

1] Malaysia withdrew their request.

2] Myanmar is on the list but has not been heard from.

3] Afghanistan is in the process of submitting a request.

4] UAE is still active.



Also, a Women's Fellowship Development Workgroup has been established. The group met through skype in September. Sue K from Australia is point person. They can be contacted at: apf-women@nzna.org.

In closing, Items 1 & 2 are for your information, item 3, this Workgroup seeks your input.

1] APF communities wishing to arrange for a Fellowship Development trip should submit requests to apf-fd@nzna.org. Each request will be carefully considered;

2] People interested in serving on APF Fellowship Development teams should send a service resume with information about prior FD experience to apf-fd@nzna.org.

3] The Fellowship Development Workgroup is creating a Google Doc PowerPoint presentation introducing the APF and its activities to newer communities. To contribute, please visit: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lKmf2zNaRNxIL0aOUFqygLbxAxPiQd-fgR-AhQsTnE/edit#slide=id.g14ddc79899_0_128

Mahmoud CH-FD Chair

Did You Know ?

WSC 2016 passed a motion allowing Zonal Forums to send an elected Delegate for representation in WSC 2018

Motion 11: To allow a delegate from any Zonal Forum who requests it to be seated at the WSC as a non voting participant. The expense of attendance will be the responsibility of the Zonal Forum and not the WSC.

Intent: To involve zones at the WSC.

Maker: Western Russia Region

Rationale by Region: We think that is an essential step forward towards inevitable integration of zones into the actual service structure due to their increasing role.



APF 1995, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia passed a proposal to send an elected Delegate with intent of participation to WSC 1996 (excerpt from newsletter # 6)

“Perhaps the most important decision taken at this meeting was to send Hok Kee as our representative to WSC '96. We wrote to the interim committee suggesting that all established forums be invited to this WSC meeting for the purpose of being allowed to be a part of the discussion of the Resolutions Groups proposals. These proposals would directly impact us and we requested that we be given discussion rights on the floor of the conference. We felt that developing NA communities, even though they may not have the service structure required to be a region, have a voice that should be heard.”

- Although the 1996 WSC in Greensboro, NC USA did not approve our proposal, the path was laid. Can it be said, this is the predecessor to Motion 11?
- At the APF meeting in 2017, Motion 11 will be presented and discussed. Will we be able to send a Delegate? If so, who? And how?

Did you know that our APF Website is a bounty of information from our very beginnings to present day happenings. It's our virtual library and continues to be updated.

There is an entire section just for our history. You can find past minutes from all reporting countries as well as our conferences right there on the web.

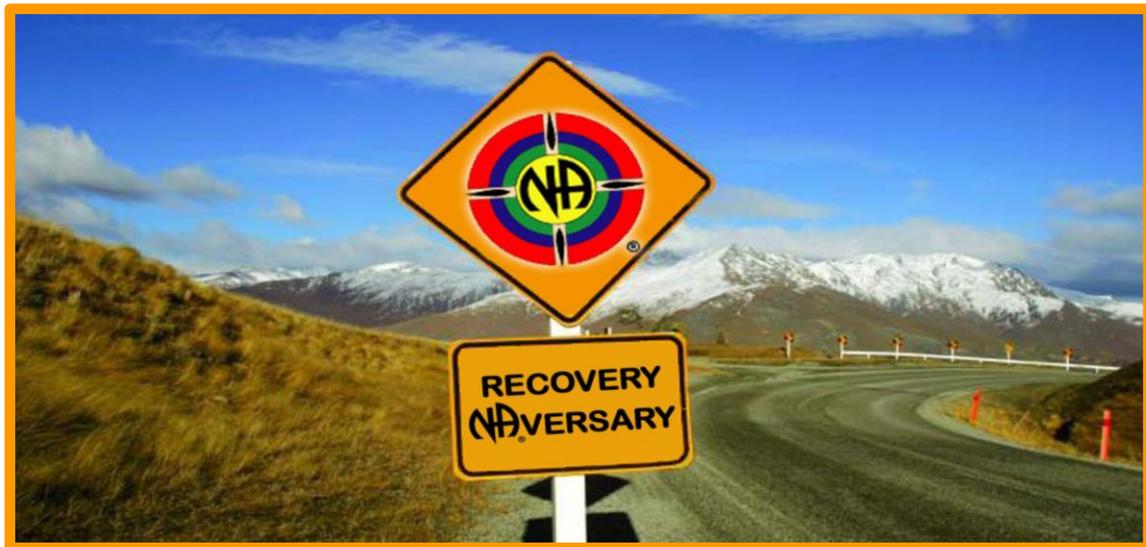
In 1993, although APF was still informal, the first newsletter was written by Larry R from Hawai'i. There were seven communities involved. We would mail the newsletters out to all members on our list. Remember the days of folding & licking stamps?

Or maybe you just want to know how many days clean you have. There is a clean time counter. Come visit your online library. www.apfna.org

Asia Pacific Zonal Forum 25 years formal years !!!

1992 – The First Meeting, Dallas USA

Clean Dates



January

04 January 2004	Amitabh S	India
06 January 1998	Rajinder P	India
07 January 2004	Sumeet D	Nepal
13 January 1999	Mahmoud C	Iran
22 January 1993	Roger S	Aotearoa (New Zealand)

February

13 February 2008	R.K. Gunikanta (Guni)	NERF (North East India)
08 February 2001	Rocky	NERF (North East India)
17 February 2000	Sam B - "Serenity Sam"	USA

March

01 March 1997	Robert P	Thailand
01 March 2007	Hammed T	Kuwait
04 March 1995	Partojit G	India
09 March 1987	Erik R	Hawaii'i
26 March 1995	Ricky S	Philippines
31 March 1994	Wajid A	Pakistan

If you wish to share your MileStone in our newsletter, please email

apf-news@nzna.org

Upcoming Events

Philippines

FELLOWSHIP

A+Me[®]

disease
PROGRAM

PHILIPPINE NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS REGIONAL CONVENTION (PNARC) XXII 2017

WHEN: JANUARY 27-29, 2017
WHERE: LEYTE PARK RESORT
REGISTRATION FEE: P2,500

Thailand



ONE PROMISE MANY GIFTS

WHEN: 24TH - 26TH FEBRUARY 2017

WHERE: CENTARA DUANGTAWAN HOTEL CHIANG MAI THAILAND

South Australia



3rd - 5th March, 2017 - G.O.L.D. - Gifts of Living the Dream

Far North Coast of NSW

Bangalow A & I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow,
Byron Bay, New South Wales, Australia.

Contact info - Gina: justfourtoday97@gmail.com or
0407370739

For more information contact Sue K (RD)

suekidd14@hotmail.com or David T (AD)

cameroperator@optusnet.com.au or visit

na.org.au.

Hawai'i

33rd Annual Gathering of the Fellowship on Oahu

7th, 8th, and 9th April 2017

[Camp Mokuleia, 68-729 Farrington Hwy, Waialua, HI 96791](#)

Registration will begin on Monday, 21 November 2016.

You may download the registration form here:

[33rd Oahu Gathering 2017](#)



Nepal

A poster for the 1st Asia Pacific Forum Convention. The background is light grey with a subtle pattern of white leaves. The text is centered and reads: "1st Asia Pacific Forum CONVENTION Kathmandu, Nepal" in various colors (red, blue, green). Below this is the slogan "Spiritual Connection..." in red cursive. The dates "10TH, 11TH & 12TH MARCH 2017" and the location "@ NEPAL ACADEMY HALL, Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal" are listed. The official website "http://apfcna.org" is provided in blue. At the bottom is a large circular logo with an orange and green border. The logo contains the text "1ST ASIA PACIFIC FORUM CONVENTION OF NA" around the top, "KATHMANDU, NEPAL, 10-12 MARCH 2017" around the bottom, and "SPIRITUAL CONNECTION" in the center. In the center of the logo is a stylized symbol resembling a 'V' and 'H' intertwined. At the bottom right of the poster, the text "APFCNA-I" is written in a large, white, serif font.