



SHEVANA NEWSLETTER

September 2018



There were many workshops to attend and I chose *Identifying Defects/Doing Something Different* because I am starting my 7th step and definitely struggle with character defects. The speakers were John G. from Illinois and Kicki J. from Sweden. It was very enlightening and a great way to start off the weekend.

Labor Day weekend I was fortunate to attend the 37th World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous in Orlando Florida. This was the second convention to be held in Orlando. This first was WCNA 19 in 1989. I arrived Friday afternoon and went straight from the airport to the convention center. After registration was complete, I entered the main part of the convention and was immediately awestruck at the amount of fellow recovering addicts that were there. The atmosphere was amazing. People were stopping to give me hugs and tell me where they were from.



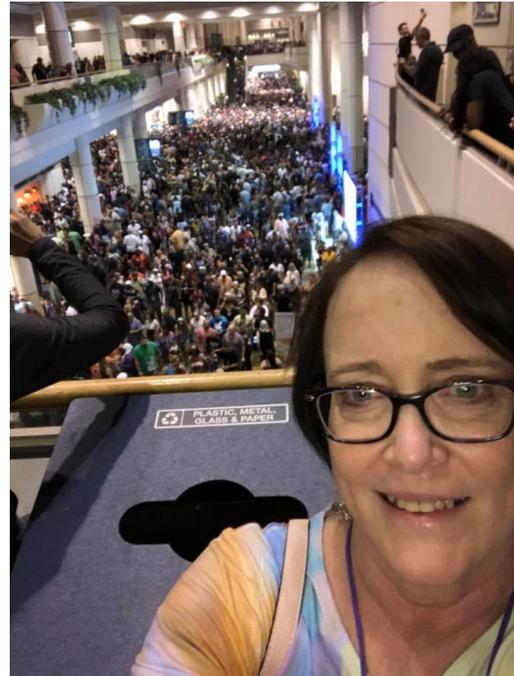


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The Friday night main speakers meeting came and it was so amazing to be in a room with over 20,000 recovering addicts. The readings were read by addicts from other countries in their own language. They handed out a membership survey for everyone to complete. Then the main speaker Benjie W. from Georgia spoke. After it was over the whole room emptied into the hall and everyone began making their way towards the main section of the center. I noticed people on the upper level were taking videos and pics of what was behind me. I couldn't see what they were looking at so I decided to go up the escalator to see for myself. This is what I captured.

It was so loud and so overwhelming. But it was also a miracle. That number of addicts had found recovery. And everyone was happy and there was no pushing, shoving, cussing or fighting. Just a whole lot of GRATITUDE!!





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So, Saturday begins a full day of workshops. There were so many to choose from. Like; *Chronic Pain & Recovery, The Magic Is the Steps, Facing Our Fears/Sharing Our Secrets* and even the topic *Experience, Strength & Hope: NA Members & Drug Replacement Therapy/Medically Assisted Treatment*. And if none of these were what you were looking for and you just needed a meeting, there were marathon meetings to attend. There were also memorabilia to look at and places to just sit and talk. If you were hungry there were multiple places to get food and of course coffee.





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Saturday night starts with the clean time count down. An addict with **58 years** clean started us off. Wow, can you imagine! Ending with the addict new to recovery. Then the readings and finally a panel of five speakers. Ayubu K. from Rwanda, Andrea F. from Costa Rica, April H. from California, Julie S. from Australia and Nima A. from Germany. It was simply amazing to hear stories from addicts around the world. To hear how they came to the rooms of NA. I left there feeling very grateful and overwhelmed.

Sunday was World Unity Day. The convention streamlined meetings from around the world including Folsom men's and women's prison in California. To see these men and women from around the world and to have them see all of us was incredible. It was a wonderful way to end a weekend filled with thousands of miracles just like me. I am grateful to my higher power and to NA for the 12 steps and 12 traditions that have given me a new way to live.

Jackie F.

