

## HISTORY OF N.A. IN MASSACHUSETTS

The first known group of N.A. in Massachusetts is considered the Saturday Night Waltham Group, November 7, 1981 at the Waltham Hospital. It is the oldest continuous group in Massachusetts. The group was started by a few addicts who had heard of N.A. from a group in Manchester, N.H.

From the first group in Waltham came a second group in Middleton, Ma. on January 7, 1982, and a third in Newton, Ma., in August 1982.

In July 1982, a group of (8) members of N.A. here in Massachusetts went to Florida for its first regional convention. Out of attending this convention came much knowledge of how to strengthen and expand N.A. in Massachusetts. With this knowledge some members of this group formulated what the needs were for N.A. in Massachusetts. What was found to be needed was an Area Service Committee. How to form one was assisted, by contacting Connecticut's Area Service Committee at the end of July.

In August, the three N.A. meetings were approached along with seven groups from an organization that was formed independently in the Greater Boston Area, known as D.A.A..

D.A.A. (drug abusers anonymous) groups were asked if they would wish to change to Narcotics Anonymous, and if so would they want to become part of a Mass. Area Service Committee. All approved of the formation of this committee, and on August 28, 1982, the Ten Original Member Groups met, and consummated the formation of the above Committee.

The Committee is made up of representatives from each group that wished to join.

By June of 1984 the Area had increased to 40 odd groups in the state. It was decided that original area be divided into three, and that the June meeting was the last meeting on the original area.

From this reformation came the Boston Area Service Committee, the Cape Cod and Island Area Service Committee, and the Central Area Service Committee.

As of November 1984 there was 70 odd meetings in Massachusetts and growing.

In July of 1984 at the Boston Area Service Committees first meeting, it was decided to form a committee called the Search Committee, whose task was to seek out and fund a place to open an Area Service Office.

The Area Service Office would provide a centralized office that is maintained, supervised, and supported by all N.A. groups in Massachusetts, that wish to participate, and work for their collective interest by supplying literature, assistance by phone, and general knowledge about Narcotics Anonymous and its workings.