



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2014

Welcome Members and Affiliates

We welcome your ideas for topics to cover, your feedback on issues that face consumers, families, and providers across the state. Contact us at newsletter@namicalifornia.org.



NAMI Ventura County Launches Video Campaign!

by Joan Wiggins, NAMI Ventura County

If a picture is worth a thousand words, each video must be worth a million! NAMI Ventura County enlisted the help of active volunteers and members in our first ever video campaign.

Executive Director Ratan Bhavnani spent a morning interviewing each participant on camera. The volunteers speak eloquently on NAMI programs, on volunteering, and their personal stories of mental illness and recovery. The interviews are then edited by volunteer Dustin Wiggins and released on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page throughout the year.

This introductory video features clips from all the interviews highlighting why people love NAMI Ventura

County. www.youtube.com/watch?v=DH6R5h5SGTI

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NAMI California's Tree of Tribute

Fiscal Year 2013-14

The second video in the series, released shortly before our Walk, features clips about NAMIWalk Ventura County. www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8HYEcqLn_4

The most recent release features a NAMI Ventura County Board Member and Family-to-Family teacher. www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPol1i-0Wao

Have you considered doing something similar in your local affiliate to get the NAMI message out?

NAMI California held a Peer-to-Peer Mentor training in Ventura, CA on June 20-22, 2014.

It was a great success! We trained 13 new Peer-to-Peer Mentors from Southern California. I want to give a big thank you to the trainer, Minnie Lucas of NAMI Orange County. Everyone enjoyed the training and it was wonderful to meet everyone. Please join me in welcoming our new Peer-to-Peer Mentors:



1. Damien Garcia

San Diego



[Click here to honor a loved one.](#)

Each year many donors elect to give a gift in celebration of an event, in honor of a special individual or in memory of a loved one. The Tree of Tribute formalizes this tradition by providing a lasting acknowledgement for individuals who are remembered, individuals who are honored or have an enduring record of a significant celebration.

Gifts of \$500 or more will be eligible for an engraved leaf on the Tree of Tribute or an engraved stone at the base of the tree.

\$500 - Bronze leaf
\$1,000 - Silver leaf
\$2,000 - Gold leaf
\$3,000 -- Small stone
\$5,000 - Large stone

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NAMI California thanks the following for their very generous contributions of \$500 or more, 2013-2014.

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| 13. Yanina Ramos | San Gabriel Valley |

If you have any questions about Peer-to-Peer, In Our Own Voice or Connection programs, please contact:

Stephenie Gardella
Stephenie.gardella@namicalifornia.org
 916-567-0163 ext. 119

NAMI California Seeks Regional Meeting Hosts

NAMI California is in the process of strategic planning for our Regional Meeting schedule 2014-2015. We travel throughout the state each year, going to six locations from September '14 to June '15. We would like to hear from our affiliates as to whether they would consider hosting a Regional Meeting during the coming fiscal year.

What is a NAMI California Regional Meeting?

The NAMI Regional Meetings are an effort we make, with the support of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the County Mental Health Directors Association, to train affiliate members in advocacy and facilitate county provider cooperation. These meetings have two parts: first, a NAMI Smarts for Advocacy Training for affiliate members and county partners who are

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interested, second, a panel presentation from county mental health departments, followed by a facilitated discussion between counties and NAMI affiliates.

The morning session trains NAMI affiliate members and other interested parties in "Telling Your Story". "Telling Your Story" guides the participant through writing and delivering a concise and compelling version of their story that will serve as the springboard for advocacy.

This is followed by a panel presentation from your county mental health personnel on the success and challenges of service delivery under the MHSA.

Counties are offered the opportunity to share the opportunities and challenges for mental health services in their areas, and how NAMI affiliates and NAMI California can contribute. The panel discussion is moderated by Bettie Reinhardt, Affiliate Development Consultant for NAMI California.

This panel is followed by a facilitated discussion between county representatives and NAMI affiliates. Together they address what needs are being met, what needs are not being met, and how they both can collaborate. These sessions are vital for building relationships and enhancing communication.

What would we have to do as host?

As a host, you would be expected to assist with the following:

- Secure space for up to 60 people to participate in a classroom setting.
- Outreach to your affiliate members to take part in the NAMI Smarts Training.
- Outreach to other area NAMI affiliates to encourage their members to attend
- Outreach to your own county mental health department to participate in the meeting.
- Work closely with NAMI California on technical and logistic issues to make the event as

large and small,
are greatly appreciated by
NAMI California and help
us achieve
our mission
at the state level.

State Advocacy
2014

Visit NAMI's State Advocacy Page

successful as possible.
NAMI California would provide lunch and all training materials. Your affiliate can bill for breakfast, beverages and snacks for the meeting.

If you would like to be considered as a host for an upcoming NAMI California Regional Meeting in your area, please reply to david@namica.org . Please include the best time to hold the meeting and any questions you might have. Send your reply by July 31

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NAMI California 2014 Conference

Mariel Hemingway is Keynote Speaker



Mariel Hemingway is Keynote Speaker for the NAMI California 2014 Annual Conference, held August 1 and 2 at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Spa. Ms. Hemingway is an iconic Academy Award nominated actor from a celebrated family. In 2013, the rich and evocative documentary, *Running From Crazy*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Produced by Oprah Winfrey, the film is an examination of the Hemingway family's history of mental illness and suicide, and focuses on Mariel's

boundless advocacy for mental health awareness.

You can purchase tickets on site in Newport at the Marriott when you arrive.

For more information on the conference, [click here](#).

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