

# SAGE'S ARMY, INC. NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 2



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Members,

This Newsletter brings together the people who are fighting to bring change (through Education and Awareness) to the growing trend of Addiction. We like to keep you abreast of the ongoing events of Sage's Army and any news worthy updates as we get them in from the county, state, and country. We would like to thank you for joining this continuously growing movement and appreciate you supporting Sage's Army and our efforts.

Sincerely,

*The Sage's Army Team*

Drugs DO NOT discriminate! ERASE the Stigma.

Rich, Poor, Homeless, Professional, Non-Professional, Young, Old...EVERYONE is at Risk

## Community Meetings

Sage's Army meets publicly every **second Thursday of each month**, 6–8pm, at the Calvary Assembly, 8653 Pennsylvania Avenue, Irwin, PA (right behind the Giant Eagle in Irwin). Meetings are open to the public.

These meetings provide interesting speakers to help everyone understand the drug epidemic in our communities. There are open discussions at the end of each meeting for your questions and comments.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message to our Members	1
Community Meetings	1
Team Meetings	2
Our Activities	2
Our Schools Called & We Answered...	3
News Watch	3
Our Invitations & Events	3
Westmoreland County News	4
Bulletins	5



Interesting speakers (to include law enforcement, doctors, lawyers, county officials and recovery persons speak of their experiences) and/or short overhead informative videos are shown. Each meeting affords you the opportunity to learn more about the subject of Addiction and gives you necessary resources at your disposal. PARENT'S are highly encouraged to attend so they can be educated on the risks and signs. MOST IMPORTANTLY, we do have drug test kits at every meeting.



The Sage's Army August Community Meeting had TWO noted speakers, Tim Philips, Director of Community Prevention Services at Westmoreland Community Action and County Commissioner, Ted Kopas. It was a very informative meeting. Quote from Mr. Philips in reference to the 16 bed detox center in Mt Pleasant, "It is of the utmost importance. We need to take care of our own instead of waiting and going out of county."

Quote  
of the  
Quarter

*Community Meetings OR on our website, you will find a wide range of Sage's Army merchandise to purchase for our next rally, bus trip, or just to wear proudly anywhere you may be.*

## Team Meetings

Sage's Army Team Meetings are attended by a group of dedicated volunteer individuals, along with the Officers and Directors, who help map out our present and future events. We would like to hear from any of you about ideas that you may have and want to contribute or, if you would like to attend the Team meeting in person, just contact one of our staff or e-mail [admin@sagesarmy.com](mailto:admin@sagesarmy.com)

## Events We Attended This Summer

- May 31 - Youngstown Health Fair
- June - Carmen spoke to the Greensburg Boy Scouts
- June - Carmen to Blairsville for a Community Meeting
- June 14 - Kids Fair in Irwin
- June 14 - Irwin Ethnic Festival
- July - Cornerstone Ministries
- July 17 - Westmoreland County Drug Task Force (WCCC)
- July 23 - Carmen to Harrisburg
- August 5 - Latrobe National Night Out
- August 22 - Art Institute of Pittsburgh, RX Epidemic Memorial
- September 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> - Hempfield Community Days



September is National  
Drug and Alcohol  
Addiction Recovery  
Month

**FACT:**  
**WESTMORELAND CO. DRUG HABIT- HALF**  
**WAY THROUGH 2014, OVERDOSES WILL**  
**OVERTAKE THE 86 DEATHS OF 2013**

## Schools We Attended This Quarter

North Star High School  
 Somerset School Rally  
 Meyersdale Middle and High School  
 Maxwell Elementary  
 Salisbury-Elk Lick School

Get your  
 school  
 scheduled for  
 2014-2015

## Sage's Army Success

A BIG "Thank you" to all the volunteers who made it possible!

June 21 - The First Annual Golf Outing, Cherry Creek Golf Course



## Sage's Army Upcoming Events

September 27, 28 - Second Annual FED UP Rally in Washington, DC  
 (5,000 expected!)

October 4 - First Annual Sage's Army 5K/Run/Walk

Early 2015 - (Date to be announced) Third Annual Sage's Army benefit with  
 Music, Food, Chinese Auction and more...stay tuned.



Heroin is easier for a teen to "score" than beer

## News Watch

- Senator Toomey introduces a Bill to curb prescription Drug Addiction
- Drug deaths top 2,000 in a single year in Pennsylvania (Philly news)
- Greensburg man sentenced up to 10 years for selling heroin to woman who survived an OD
- Older Americans hooked on painkillers
- Pittsburgh police blame drugs for increase in killings
- Drug overdose Immunity Bill passes Pa Senate
- More than 325 arrested in New Jersey anti-heroin effort
- Pennsylvanians seeking treatment for addiction nears 1 million
- Insurance gaps add to addicts trials...funding not available for those who need help
- Drugs to treat heroin users: a new abuse problem in the making
- Heroin overdose leaves Taunton resident permanently impaired/Boston Globe
- Opium Production Hits Record High in Afghanistan
- Jeannette's Operation Clean Sweep arrested 10, seized 129 bags of heroin
- Official: Narcan Working to Save Overdose Victims

- 2 Charged with providing heroin that killed Delmont man
- 4th graders busted for selling pot in Colorado school
- BEWARE: ADHD drugs are Far from Harmless
- 23.9 million Americans over the age of 12 have used an illegal drug or abused prescriptions
- 2013 States Medicaid system says 50% of prescriptions written by suboxone physicians are diverted to the streets
- Pennsylvania ranked 7th nationally for drug overdoses, moving from 14th last year

## Out and About

- Westmoreland County gets word out on drug problems through YouTube with a 90 second public service announcement
- How could it happen: 3 people charged in brazen sale of heroin from patients bed at Excelsa Hospital
- Quote from Attorney Kane, "Heroin problem in Johnstown is out of control."
- Up to 40% of Westmoreland County prison inmates, when released, return to the drug culture and relapse.

*Did you know?*

*Experts say brain damage, not weakness, leads to repeated drug use.*

*99% of all OxyContin is used in the United States.*

*30% of all babies born at local hospital are addicted to heroin.*

*Quote from Dr Capretto: "We are paying more for addicts to remain addicts instead of getting them into longer programs."*

Things you can do to fight STIGMA:

- Demand equal medical insurance for drug and alcohol treatment.
- Tell your lawmakers to remove the barrier that prevents people recovering from getting jobs.
- More attention to the reality that addiction is a disease, not a character weakness.
- No matter who or what you are, be an advocate for an individual or family with an addiction problem.

XXX

Alcohol kills 3.3 million worldwide. More than AIDS, TB, and violence combined.



Check out the Sage's Army race car! We feel ABSOLUTELY honored! Special THANK YOU goes out to Chris Brink who asked to sponsor SAGE'S ARMY! Gotta LOVE IT!

# Bulletin: It's happenning

- Detox center will open in Mt Pleasant, 16 beds.
- Officials moving ahead in Westmoreland County Drug Court
- Judge Feliciani heading up Drug Court

### Sage's Army

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Do Not Despair. We will fight this fight together.



www.sagesarmy.com

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

www.sagesarmy.com

Sage's Army, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
All donations are fully tax-deductible.

To donate to Sage's Army, visit us on the web.