

## Dear Mother of J.

**Dear Mother of "J.": I cannot tell how poignantly I am stirred by the letter you wrote The Grapevine about your alcoholic son. Just ten years ago my own mother, after years of frantic bewilderment, lost hope. Long a chronic problem drinker, I had come to the jumping-off place. A very good doctor had pronounced the grim sentence: "Obsessive drinker, deteriorating rapidly--**

hopeless." The doctor used to talk about my case somewhat like this: "Yes, Bill has underlying personality defects. . . great emotional sensitivity, childishness and inferiority. "This very real feeling of inferiority is



magnified by his childish sensitivity and it is this state of affairs which generates in him that insatiable, abnormal craving for self approval and success in the eyes of the world. Still a child, he cries for the moon.

And the moon, it seems, won't have him!

"Discovering alcohol, he found much more in it than do normal folks.

To him alcohol is no mere relaxation; it means release--release from inner conflict. It seems to set his troubled spirit free."

The doctor would then go on, "Seen this way, we normal people can picture how such a compulsive habit can become a real obsession; as indeed it has, in Bill's case. Once he arrived at the obsession point, alcohol overshadows all else. Hence he now appears utterly selfish. And immoral. He will lie, cheat, steal or what have you, to serve his drinking ends. Of course those about him are shocked and dismayed because they think his actions are willful. But that's far from being so. The real picture of Bill is that of a bankrupt idealist; one who has gone broke on vain, childish dreams of perfection and power.

Victimized now by his obsession, he is a little boy crying alone in a dark strange room; waiting agonized for mother--or God--to come and light a candle."

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

I must confess, Mother of "J.," that I may have put some of these words into the doctor's mouth. But that's the alcoholic's life as I have lived it.

Did I, an alcoholic, have a defective character? Of course I did. Was I, an alcoholic, also a sick man? Yes, very.

To what extent I was personally responsible for my drinking, I don't know. Yet I'm not one to take complete refuge in the idea that I was a sick man only. In earlier years I certainly had some degree of free will. That free will I used badly, to the great misery of my mother and countless others. I am deeply ashamed.

As one who knows me a little, you may have heard how, ten years ago, a friend, himself a liberated alcoholic, came to me bearing the light which finally led me out of the toils. There will come a day like that for you and yours--I'm so confident!  
As ever,

*Bill W.*

AA Grapevine: December 1944; Vol. 1 No. 7  
Points of View.  
Reprinted with permission from the AA Grapevine, Inc.

## Steps--1\_12 BB Reference

### Step #, Page/ Paragraph/ Line #'s

Step 1, 30/2/1-3	Step 7, 76/2/1-7
Step 2, 47/2/1-3	Step 8, 76/3/3-5
Step 3, 63/2/1-8	Step 9, 76/3/6-11
Step 4, 64/1/1-9, 2/1-6	Step 10, 84/2/1-14
Step 5, 75/1/1-4, 2/1-2	Step 11, 86/1/1-14,
Step 6, 76/1/3-5	Step 12, 89/1/1-7
2/1-5 3/1-6	

## Ann's Story

written in 2007

*W*hen I was 5, my dad had an aneurism. Since I am the youngest of 10 kids, the older girls helped raise me. My mom had to work hard to be the mom and "dad". My dad had to stay at the V.A. Hospital permanently. I didn't know I had any anger. In fact, I don't remember feeling very sad about my daddy. It might have been shock. Though a lot of anger came out later and it was directed at my mom.

We used to have big family parties on Thanksgiving and Christmas. My mom had tiny glasses for us filled with wine. No big deal. In my teenage years, my mom withdrew from me. She partied several days a week, staying out until 2,3 or 4. One of my older brothers partied with one of my sisters. They even locked my mom out when she came home too early. I wouldn't be like them.

My mom was crazy sometimes. She would yell so loud her face became red. I wanted her attention. When she was home, she worked hard at the home office. There were many TV shows she couldn't miss. At times she would literally push me aside if her shows were on and if I was in the way.

Then my sister started to get in a lot of trouble. She and I were the last ones still living at home. She would get grounded, my mom would beat her, and my sister would run away. It all made me scared. So, as I got fantastic grades and behaved myself, I didn't get much attention. My mom was always worrying about my sister. So one day it dawned on me to be "bad" to get attention.

School wasn't very good. I got picked on so much for trying to fit in and doing it wrong. One of my peers felt sorry for me. She looked cool and could teach me to be cool. We had so much fun breaking curfew, stealing our parent's liquor and smoking joints. My new friend taught me to skip out of school and get away with it. Finally my mom acted concerned. She found me in front of a store after curfew. She even grounded me. Like my sister, I snuck out and ran away. Life was so fun and scary at the same time. I did blame my mom for my mistakes. It probably wasn't the right thing to do.

One day my oldest brother and 2 of my sisters took turns telling me about Jesus and the Bible.

(Continued on page 6)



**D**istrict 11 G.S.R. Meetings Are Held On 1st Thursday of the Month at the First United Methodist Church, 236 W. Crystal Lake Avenue; Northeast Corner of Dole & Crystal Lake Avenue in Crystal Lake

**District Meeting 7:30 PM**

**Committee Meeting(s) 7:00 PM, (or TBA)**

All are welcome. Get involved, join a committee, voice your groups opinion, spread the word, carry the message back to your group and get involved with a committee to carry the AA message to the alcoholic that is still suffering. Out of over 150 registered meetings in District 11, less than 30 G.S.R.'s have been attending the District Meeting. Was someone there for you?

**Are your IN or AROUND A.A.?**

**Public Information, Corrections, Grapevine, Hospitals and Treatment, INTOACTION Newsletter, Answering Service, Archives, Workshops, LCM....**

**A G.S.R. Creed**

"We are General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God expressed in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience; we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us therefore have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole."

**District 11's Elected OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2006-2008**

DCM	Rich H.
Alt DCM	Dan M.
Treasure	Rich R.
Alt	Lynn B.
Secretary	Patti D.
Alt	Tammy H.
Public Info.	Andrew W.
Alt.	Frank S.
Corrections	Maureen O.
Alt	Cheryl M.
Hospital R/x	Carol H.
Alt	Jerry L.
Answ. Ser.	Jim M.
Alt	Tom F.
Grapevine	Dale H
Alt	Open
Archives	Steve G.
Special Needs	Carol G.
Co-chair	Chuck S.
Workshops	Craig C.
LCM	Russ M.
Webmaster:	Frank S.

**INTOAction: District 11's Newsletter**

Co-Editor: Tim Boutin (815) 363-8348

E-mail: [TimB95@aol.com](mailto:TimB95@aol.com)

Co-Editor: David Gilbert 815-344-6523

E-mail: [Soulsurgery@comcast.net](mailto:Soulsurgery@comcast.net)

***DISTRICT 11's WEB SITE:***

<http://www.dist11-aa-nia.org/>

**\*SCHEDULE INFO CHANGES MUST GO THROUGH DISTRICT 11'S SECRETARY**

***INTOACTION Editorial Policy***

INTOACTION News is a bimonthly newsletter of District 11; NIA 20 of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by and for the Members of the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by AA. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc. Submissions are edited for space and clarity ONLY. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

*(Continued on the next page)*

# DCM REPORT

## JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

Good evening everybody. Our Area 20 **Delegate to New York, Larry Stiff will be joining us tonight.** I will be brief and ask that unless necessary to communicate with this committee that we just turn in our committee reports trying to give Larry the time possible. Dan Michel and I attended the Spring Committee on May 13<sup>th</sup>, where we helped to set the agenda for the Summer Assembly & Post General Service Conference Report. **This Assembly will be in Waukegan on June 17<sup>th</sup>,** Info packets and flyers are on the table, I hope that all can attend. **There are two resignations that there will be elections for: 1) Area Literature Chairperson and 2) Area Alternate Chairperson.**

**There will be three financial votes:**

- 1) NIA 2006 Budget to allow payment to Al-Anon Family Groups the amount of \$268.85 through an oversight of the 2005 Spring Conference Final Financial Report. This is a legitimate debt that should be honored.
- 2) NIA Budget adjustment of \$2,000.00 be made to Line 680 to increase expenses for hosting Area Assemblies.
- 3) Motion to the Assembly that **4 line items** be restored to the previous 2005 budgeted amounts.
  - 1) NIA Grapevine Materials Budget Line Item of \$200.00 be established.
  - 2) Make a line item adjustment of \$200.00 to increase the CPC Materials Budget from \$400.00 to \$600.00.
  - 3) Make a line item adjustment of \$1300.00 to the Corrections Materials Budget increasing from \$2,000.00 to \$3,300.00.
  - 4) Make a line item adjustment of \$1,500.00 to the Timely Budget Adjustment, increasing from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00.

Budget cuts occurred last year because of a shortfall of contributions, but contributions are up this year and we should spend this money here at home rather than send it away. Details of these items are listed in New Business in the Assembly Agenda in your Assembly packets.

**I'm glad that Dan is back here with us, and as we are hosting the Summer Committee Meeting,** he will be heading up the planning committee for that event.

Thank You Everybody,  
Rich Healless  
DCM District 11

## Monthly Meeting Minutes for District 11 May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

Meeting Time: 7:30 P.M.

Attendance: 36

Committee Members: 11

Groups Represented: 28

**Anniversaries:** Rich - 19 yrs; David - 4 yrs; Tony - 2 yrs  
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**Secretary's Report Patti D.:**

- One correction from April's minutes: Real D11 web address is dist11-aa-nia.org



**Treasurer's Report Rich R.:**

Beginning Balance	\$6,486.46
Expenses	\$5,707.84
Assets	<u>\$2,041.21</u>
Ending Balance	\$2,819.83

- Contributions were sent to both GSO (\$1,910.00) & NIA (\$2,866.00)

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business:** Election of Alt. Answering Service Chair

- Tony D. stands for position and was seconded, Tom F. was nominated and seconded
- Vote was taken, results were Tom F. 17, Tony D. 10

**Public Information Andrew David W.:** No report



**Corrections Cheryl M.:**

- Meeting held April 29<sup>th</sup> at MAC was canceled due to non-attendance
- A new contact is needed at jail due to Lt. Cox's undetermined leave of absence; will contact Lt. Sylvester
- A Beginners packet was left with Lt. Cox to go over, but since she is gone another will have to be found to okay inmate distribution
- Will also ask about Grapevine distribution and/or staple removal

**Hospital & Treatment Carol H.:** No report

(Continued on the next page)

(Continued on the previous page)

#### Answering Service *Jim M.:*

- Tom F. will contact answering service to make sure they have info to contact new committee members with caller info so as to have data for next meeting



#### Newsletter *David G.:*

- (UPDATED BY Ed.) Deadline for next "Into Action" is July 20, 2007. All willing to share their experience, strength, and hope please email to [soulsurgery@comcast.net](mailto:soulsurgery@comcast.net) or [TimB95@aol.com](mailto:TimB95@aol.com).
- Tim not present at meeting therefore vote taken to print more schedules without seeing them if necessary, Rich will contact him and talk about it.

**Archives** *Steve G.:* No report

**Grapevine** *Dale H.:* No report

**Special Needs** *Chuck S.:* No report

#### LCM Report *Russ M.:*

- Russ absent due to wedding anniversary
- No new meetings were visited due to various reasons, however info for 3 meetings was obtained
- We need more volunteers! **Our next LCM team meeting will be held at 6:45 before the next District meeting, contact Russ if you'd like to participate and ask your group as well. 847-875-9677, [rtmobes@yahoo.com](mailto:rtmobes@yahoo.com)**



**Workshop Report** *Craig C.:* No report

#### Webmaster Report *Frank S.:*

- **The domain name Dist11-AA-NIA.org is up and running**
- Schedule is posted but old one from Area website, lots of good links for readings available too

#### Upcoming Events:

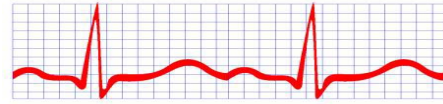
- Soberfest Fundraiser Dance, May 12 at McHenry Township Hall
- Summer Committee Meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup>, Sycamore
- Summer Assembly June 16<sup>th</sup>, Dst21 host
- Post General Service Conference Report with Workshop: One Drunk Talking to Another, July 14<sup>th</sup> in Libertyville
- East Central Regional Forum, November 9-11, Arlington Heights

#### Open Mic:

*Lynn B.:* May 20<sup>th</sup> 8am is Breakfast at the Bridge with open meeting to follow, \$3 suggested donation

*Barb S.:* Harvard 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Steak Fry \$10 per ticket, softball starts at 12, Dinner between 5-10, tickets must be purchased by the 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Brandon L.:* Crystal Lake holding 2008 ISCYPAA conference and are looking for volunteers to help, Next meeting held at CLAC May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm



## DCM Report-May 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Rich Healless:*

- On April 15<sup>th</sup> attended Spring Assembly, minutes are available
- The business included Alt. CPC Chair position opened and have election probably at Summer Assembly, Marcia Stiff was appointed Special Needs Chair for Area 20, Rich stood for vacated position of Alt. Corrections chair and was elected, Purchase of translation equipment was tabled, and increase of line item 681 for rental of storage unit for current year was approved
- May 15<sup>th</sup> is Summer Committee in Sycamore
- Business included will be accepting bids for 2008 Big Book Conf., election of CPC Alt. Chair, Webmaster (who resigned) will hopefully be filled, motion to change NIA guidelines so that Special Needs coordinator is an elected position instead of appointed, motion by Area treasurer to by amount not to exceed \$2,300, motion by Area Treasurer to increase line item 400 by \$1000 to allow treasurer to cover expenses for past delegates for the remainder of the year, and the motion read last month and was tabled from the finance committee to fund each assembly \$2000 to satisfy the Winter Assembly motion
- Please attend the Summer assembly and take part, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Palatine High School
- Larry Stiff, our Area delegate, will attend our next meeting to share his experience in New York

\*\*\***(UPDATED BY Ed)The next District meeting will be held on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:30\*\*\***

Respectfully Submitted *Patti Dalton* Recording Secretary  
[pdalton82@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pdalton82@sbcglobal.net)



*(Continued from page 2)*

I had to admit I did feel empty inside and they said God could fill that. I became so religious that other people were below me. It was hard to make many friends with a “goody two-shoes” attitude. At times I had depression and other times was talking and laughing out of control. Even when teachers said to stop, I would try but couldn’t. High school graduation came next.

Being very convinced that God wanted me to be a missionary, I signed up for Bible school a year after high school. I looked down on others who were going to regular college. My goal seemed more important. I didn’t drink because it was wrong. During Bible school I had episodes of mania and then depression and finally suicide thoughts and attempts. From the years 1992-1995, I spent a lot of time in Psychiatric hospitals and also was asked to leave Bible school. I moved in with my sister for a year, moved to my mom’s house, then started drinking. My attempts to live a sane sober life weren’t working, so I quit trying and instead made a decision to “f\_\_\_\_\_” it all.

Bar hopping and meeting all kinds of men brought a lot of excitement to my life. My mom saw me drunk and didn’t like it so I tried to be drunk when she wasn’t looking or when I was away from home.

Paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, and other mental relapses started to plague my life. I even called the police on my mom because in my mind, she was going to get violent. Moving is what I did for the next year. A month at one place, 2 months at another place, hospital inpatient, outpatient, move back to mom’s, etc. In the middle of all this chaos my future husband and I met at the animal shelter.

Maybe our love of animals drew us together. It’s hard to understand how we ended up together because I was in no mental state to become married. God had other plans.

Pregnancy caused me to move in with the father of my baby and future husband. I had just been fired from 2 jobs in a row and started permanent disability from social security. My life was such a mess. Pregnancy didn’t do much to help my mood. Since being another divorce statistic didn’t appeal to me, I fought against the idea of getting married. This is what the pastor said to me: “You should just have the baby by yourself. You aren’t married and since you are a Christian and he isn’t one, I would advise you not to marry.” Our parents thought we should.

So I asked God and didn’t get a voice in my head or anything, but I did feel an unmistakable peace after meditating and praying about it.

Drinking wasn’t a part of my life until one day my husband’s step mom said “Before you start nursing, have a glass of wine.” Beer was close enough, wasn’t it? And a few were better than just one. I started to feel more alone and have more rage. At that time I drank, but not so much. I quit drinking when pregnant for the second time. Every night I stayed up worrying about having another baby. I cried, yelled at God, feeling trapped most of the time. After my second daughter was born, I really started losing my mind.

A nearby church hired me as a volunteer, yet I was thinking they were plotting against me and my kids. Then a psychiatrist prescribed some medication. The next 5 years were spent trying to figure out what was wrong with me. I drank sometimes, having many fits of rage, depression and bewilderment. Why wasn’t God and my church helping me? Maybe it was time to get divorced and take the kids to my mom’s house, I thought. Maybe my earlier sins were being punished. I wondered if I would ask God to forgive me then He would stop “punishing” me. Nothing helped, even when other people prayed for me. Living my life felt like torture. A church counselor started helping me.

At one point I was so full of rage that I threw my daughter down on the floor. DCFS had to come over to interview us. Parenting classes were assigned to me. A twelve step called Emotions Anonymous started to help a little. My church counselor listened to my 5<sup>th</sup> step. Every now and then I wished that I could go to AA, knowing that I didn’t drink enough for that.

Actually my drinking got heavier. I drank several different kinds of drinks, but beer was my drink of choice. There was a drinking schedule. At first there was only drinking on the weekends. Then I had a drinking day during the week. And since there was one drinking day, why not have 2? It progressed to drinking every other day. I kept adding one more beer to the amount. In order to please my husband, I only drank at night. He didn’t want the kids to see. But I could have just 1 or 2 if my husband wasn’t home. If he asked, I would lie about it. My daughter said she remembers me drinking a whole 12 pack, even though I tried to hide it from them.

There were 3 different grocery stores and 3 different liquor stores that I juggled my purchases from.

*(Continued on page 11 )*

# NIA Summer Assembly &

Post-General Service Conference

Delegate's Report

**JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2007**

**PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL**

**1111 N. ROHLWING RD.**

**PALATINE, IL**

**Registration: 8:00 A.M.** Coffee, Donuts & Refreshments. **Meeting: 9:00 A.M.** Lunch Available

Contact the NIA no later than 2 weeks before Assembly if an interpreter is needed.

Ray M. 847-659-8237 e-mail: specialneeds@aa-nia.org

Hosted by District 21

Chuck S.

847-456-8540

Nicole E.

847-951-7671

Dick S.

847-358-9056

## Northern Illinois Area 20 NIA 2007 Summer Assembly

### Agenda

June 16th, 2007

*Hosted by NIA District 21*

*Palatine High School*

*Palatine, Illinois*

- 8:00 AM –Assembly Registration and Welcome  
 9:00 AM NIA Assembly Call to Order – Quiet  
 Time -Announcements – New Attendees –  
 AA Anniversaries - Twelve Concepts of  
 World Service  
 9:20 AM **Approval of NIA 2007 Spring Assembly  
 Minutes as Submitted**  
 9:25 AM **NIA Treasurer Report** 10 Minute Limit  
 NIA Treasurer **Randy McGill**  
 9:35 AM **NIA Panel 56 Post Conference Delegate  
 Report** (45 Minute Limit )  
 NIA Delegate **Larry Stiff**  
 10:20 AM **Service Committee Breakout Meetings**

**11:50 AM**

**GSR's  
 Archives**

**Cooperation with  
 Professional Community**

**DCM's**

**Literature**

**Secretaries / Registrar**

**Treasurer's**

**Answering Service  
 Concepts**

**Correctional Facilities  
 Grapevine**

**Public Information**

**Special Needs**

**Treatment Facilities**

**11:50 AM-** Ad-Hoc Committee on Service Structure  
 Session

**12:00 PM** **This time slot is made available to allow for  
 an ad-Hoc Committee Report on the NIA  
 Interim Report on Service Structure prior  
 to the Business Session at this Assembly**

**12:00 PM-** Adjourn for Lunch until 12:45 PM

**12:45 PM** Open Microphone Session -2 Minute Limit

**12:55 PM** **NIA 2007 Fall Assembly / Service Rotation  
 Election Procedure ( Terry Whelan )**

**1:00 PM** Reading of NIA Assembly Voting  
 Procedures

**\*GSR's ARE URGED  
 TO ATTEND\***

*(Continued on the next page)*

**1:10 PM [NIA Old Business](#)****1. [Purchase of Language Translation Equipment by Larry S. \(Panel 56 Delegate\) to NIA Electronic Equipment Committee.](#)**

*This motion was tabled at the NIA 2007 Spring Assembly because of time consideration.*

A motion is made by the Electronic Equipment Committee to purchase a FM Broadcast System for the purpose of Foreign Language Translation in the Northern Illinois Area. The proposed cost of this equipment shall not exceed \$750.00.

**1:45 PM [NIA New Business](#)****1. [NIA 2008 Big Book Conference Bids](#)**

The NIA 2008 Big Book Conference bids will be accepted at the NIA 2007 Summer Assembly. The Conference Guidelines are available by request from the NIA Alternate Chairperson or posted on the NIA Website [www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org).

**2. [NIA Co-operation w / Professional Community Alternate Chair Election](#)**

An announcement to the Fellowship that NIA will hold an Election for the position of CPC Alternate Chair at the NIA 2007 Summer Assembly.

**3. [Appointed Committee Announcements.](#)**

The NIA Chair is announcing that the NIA Webmaster has resigned. The resignation is effective when a new NIA Webmaster is appointed.

**4. [Special Needs Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson](#)**

A motion is made by Marcia S. NIA Special Needs Coordinator to effect the change in the NIA Service Structure Guidelines to allow the Area Assembly to elect at the next Area Service Rotation Election the positions of NIA Special Needs Chairperson and NIA Alternate Chairperson. Currently the NIA Service Structure Guidelines allow the NIA Chair to appoint a Special Needs Coordinator only.

**5. [NIA Past Delegate Expenses](#)**

A motion is made by Randy McG, NIA Treasurer, to increase Line Item 400 of the NIA 2007 Budget by \$1000.00. The total of Line Item 400 will now be \$1500.00. This will allow the NIA Treasurer to cover expenses for Past Delegates for the remainder of the year.

**6. [NIA Cooperation w/Professional Community Materials Budget Increase](#)**

A motion is made by Betty G., NIA CPC Chairperson to increase the NIA CPC Materials Budget by \$750.00. The budgeted Line Item 219 of the NIA 2007 Budget is currently \$500.00. The budgeted amount is currently over budget by \$200.54 which has currently been reimbursed through the Timely Budget Adjustment. This increase will cover the over budget reimbursement and leave \$549.46 in Line Item 219 for the remainder of the year.

**(THE AREA ASSEMBLY)**

*Any meeting of area G.S.R.s and the area committee (see Chapter Five of the AA Ser Man) is an assembly. The area assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure — the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself. Assemblies are the responsibility of the area committee, and are conducted by its chairperson. (inserted by editor.)*

**7. [NIA Archives Committee Materials Budget Increase](#)**

A motion is made by Rick T., NIA Archives Committee Chairperson to increase Line Item 277 of the NIA 2007 Budget by \$300.00. The budgeted amount is currently \$400.00. This would bring the total of Line Item 277 to \$700.00. With this year's previous purchases of preservation spray and printing for the March workshop, we will not have enough available Supplies funds needed for our second planned Workshop, display boards, and acid-free storage boxes.

**8. [Motion by District 11 to Amend NIA 2007 Calendar](#)**

A motion is made by Rich H. District 11 DCM to allow the scheduled date of December 1 to be amended to December 8, if necessary, to allow the Winter Assembly Planning Committee the option of using a facility on this date. District 11 will have a firm commitment in place by June 16<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of the NIA 2007 Summer Assembly.

**9. [NIA Cooperation w/Professional Community Chairperson Budget Increase](#)**

A motion is made by Betty G., NIA CPC Chairperson to increase the NIA CPC Chair Budget by \$200.00. The budgeted Line Item 210 of the NIA 2007 Budget is currently \$600.00. This would increase Line Item 210 of the NIA 2007 Budget to \$800.00.

**10. [Conference Archives Committee Support Motion by Rick T. NIA Archives Chairperson](#)**

Motion to the Summer Assembly 'That the 2007 NIA Summer Assembly supports the Conference Archives Committee members' 2007 consideration and recommendation to change the committee status from a **secondary-assigned** committee to a permanent and **primary-assigned** Delegate-seated committee of the General Service Conference'. From the 2007 Conference Final Report of the Conference Archives Committee's Additional Considerations, its last item "The committee forwarded to the 2008 Policy/Admissions Committee a request to consider that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee."

**11. [Post-conference Delegate Workshop Expenses](#)**

A motion is made by Larry S. Panel 56 Delegate that line item 683 of the NIA 2007 Budget relating to Post Conference Delegates Report; be increased from \$750 to \$2500 to assist Districts that are hosting Post Conference Workshops.

**12. [Mid-Year GSO Contribution from Northern Illinois Area 20](#)**

That \$5,000 of the excessive funds set aside for assembly expenses be forwarded to GSO as a Northern Illinois Area 20 mid-year contribution.

**3:15 PM Conference and Forum Reports  
(3 Minute Limit)**

- |                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. '07 NIA Spring Conference       | Earlene Will      |
| 2. '07 Illinois State Conference   | Steve Kaplan      |
| 3. '07 Corrections Connection      | Jeanne Fisera     |
| 4. '07 NIA Big Book Conference     | Shelly Kleczewski |
| 5. '07 East Central Regional Forum | Larry Stiff       |
| 6. '08 NIA Spring Conference       | Julia Goodwin     |

*(Continued on the next page)*



(Continued on the previous page)

**3:45 PM NIA Service Committee Workshop Reporting**

**Answering Service** Warren Adam / Paul Longeway  
**Archives** Rick Tompkins / Dan Michel  
**Concepts** Phil Goodwin / Susan Person  
**Cooperation w/ Professional Community** Betty Green  
**Correctional Facilities** Jeanne Fisera / Rich Healless  
**DCM's** Manus Sweetman (NIA Alternate Delegate)  
**Grapevine** Mike Frisbie / LaVonne Tewell  
**GSR's** Ray Mengler (NIA Alternate Chairman)  
**Literature** James Bliss / Ron Melzer  
**Public Information** Tom Germuska / Janet Califf  
**Secretary / Registrar** Jacque Sweetman / Dean Glosson  
**Special Needs** Marcia Stiff  
**Treasurer's** Randy McGill / Bill Fetzner  
**Treatment Facilities** Bob Mudra / Wade Larson

**4:15 PM NIA Officer Reports** Chairman, Alternate  
 Chairman, Secretary, Registrar Alternate Treasurer,  
 Alternate Delegate (3 Minute Limit)

**Chairman** John Conway

Alternate Chairman Ray Mengler

Secretary Jacque Sweetman / Marilyn Kling

**Registrar** Dean Glosson

**Alternate Delegate** Manus Sweetman

**Alternate Treasurer** Bill Fetzner

NIA 2007 Summer Assembly Adjournment

Closing Prayers

NIA Guideline Changes (2/3 Majority)

NIA Business Voting (Simple Majority)

**DOUBLE HEADER**  
**DELEGATE'S REPORT**  
**AND WORKSHOP**

**July 14, 2007**

St. Lawrence Episcopal Church

125 West Church Street

Libertyville, Illinois 60048

**Workshop/Sharing Session:**

**"One Drunk Talking to Another"**

**2007 Delegate's Report of the**

**General Service Conference**

for Districts 10, 11, 12, 21 & 28\*

by Northern Illinois Area 20

Panel 56 **Delegate Larry S.**

\*All AAs are welcome

Coffee at 10:00 AM

**Program starts at 10:30**

**\$5 donation covers lunch**

**Heard Around The Tables**

***District 11's Wisdom and Witticisms***

- If you think your sobriety date isn't important; Try waking up without one.
- Ever wonder if those who use profanity in meetings to get their message across use the same filthy language when they pray?
- Our joy, prayers, and thankfulness to God should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings.
- "The more OBJECTIONABLE their inventory is - the better the chances. The better they feel, the less objectionable their liabilities are to them, the better the chances they will NEVER finish taking the steps. They MAY not even finish the inventory."

➤ **God grant me the serenity to  
 accept the people I cannot change,  
 the courage to change the one I can,  
 AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW IT IS ME.**

- Alcoholics have three kinds of memory loss; short-term, long-term and convenient.
- Resentments develop only from what has already been felt and fear from apprehension about experiences yet to be confronted.
- Son: "Dad, when I grow up, I want to be an alcoholic!"  
 Dad: "Son, you cannot do both."
- We can know, however, that God's plan will include peaceful actions, just and moral solutions, and results that are wholly beneficial to all concerned.



**Humor?**

One of the best marksmen in the FBI was passing through a small town. Everywhere he saw evidences of the most amazing shooting he as ever seen. On trees, on walls, and on fences there were numerous bull's-eyes with the bullet hole in dead center. The FBI man asked one of the townsmen if he could meet the person responsible for this wonderful marksmanship. The man turned out to be the village drunk. "This is the best marksmanship I have ever seen," said the FBI man. "How in the world do you do it?" "Nothing to it," slurred the drunk, "I shoot first and draw the circles afterward."



Sometimes things seem like they're out  
of control and moving too fast,  
Leaving you to wonder how long you will last.  
It's at times like these that the best of us shine,  
Because those of us with this new conscious contact  
know it'll be fine.

This is the thing I've worked on a lot,  
And now that I have it I'm happy I've got.  
There are many of us out there with this  
conscious contact with God,  
If you were to ask is this right I'd answer  
yes with a nod.

Please know that this has worked for me,  
And for all that was locked inside  
the chains are broken and now I'm free.

Open your heart to others  
and let them know you care,  
People need this and a lot are out there.  
These are people who are sad and believe  
this game of life they have lost,  
But with this new conscious contact  
help comes and there's no cost.  
I thank you all for helping me  
see this precious sight,  
And I give thanks for you all  
each and every night.

Submitted by Dave H.

the

## “From the Book Group” celebrates: Their 7th Anniversary

### *Cookin' from the Book*

Spaghetti & Open Speaker Meeting

Date: Sunday August 19, 2007



This Event is **FREE**  
(Donations will be Gratefully  
Accepted)  
*Seating is Limited !*

Doors open at 4:30  
Dinner at 5:00  
Speaker to follow

**Guest Speaker: Wayne B.  
from Santa Monica, CA**



Saint Mary's Church  
317 Lincoln Ave.  
Woodstock, IL.

(Corner of Lincoln & Tryon)

Contacts: Mike P. (847) 778-1527

Linda L. (815) 477-3072

(Continued from page 6)

I couldn't go to the same store too many times or they might know how much I was buying. Some of the cashiers started to recognize me and wouldn't ask for ID anymore, even though I looked young. Something I didn't do was make eye contact so that people wouldn't notice who was buying all this beer.

Drinking got me so sick that I saw double. I tried to make it better by closing one eye, which made me dizzy. And being dizzy made the room spin, which made me want to throw up. So I prayed and prayed not to throw up. Didn't work... Many times I blacked out. Sometimes I wet myself. I came to and always had a hangover, which made me loathe living. It was so painful but I didn't know how to make it better. I tried to figure it out so many times.

When I had enough, I started to ask my husband if I was an alcoholic. He went to AA for so long, he must know. But instead of answering me, he brought me a pamphlet that asked me questions. My drinking wasn't over even after trying 2 AA meetings, because I couldn't say that word: Alcoholic.

One night, I was drinking a caffeinated drink, trying to get drunk. I stayed up all night crying and asked God to help me. Being sick of feeling terrible and sick of the way I treated my family, I asked my husband for help the next morning. He called 2 ladies to come take me to a Saturday night AA meeting. They told me to notice how I felt after the meeting and I did feel better.

For six months, I was dry, not sober. Sober is living each day as it comes and living with some serenity. My family suffered for it too. It was difficult to believe that I was worse without my alcohol. Though it seemed like things would be better after I quit drinking, things got more difficult. Good thing it didn't stay that way. But I did end up in a psychiatric hospital which saved my life. I was going crazy without alcohol and thought my family and everyone else would be better without me. My plan was to buy a gun and end it all. I told my husband I was leaving and had some things packed just to fool him. God had other plans. Finally my doctor was contacted and I got some help. I wish that my story suddenly got better from there, but I drank again for several months.

On New Year's Eve, AA was having their sober parties. My husband asked if we could go. My plan was to go for a couple of minutes then go back home to my beer. At the party, there were people that I used to see at meetings.

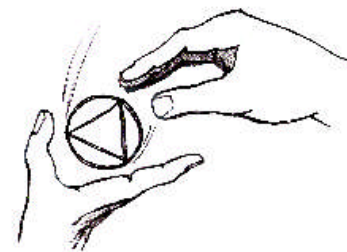
For sure I thought they would judge me, but they smiled and hugged me.

Nobody asked why I was drinking again, even though they knew. Almost 2 more weeks went by and those alcoholics did mess up my drinking! I came back to the meetings and was welcomed too. It was difficult to lift my head again and not be ashamed. Though I am so very grateful those AA's messed with my drinking, because everyday I needed a drink at that point.

When I was so humiliated and willing to do anything to stay sober, then the program worked for me. When people shared at meetings, I listened. When someone suggested I do something like make phone calls, I did. When I was told to get a higher power, I did. That is what got me sober and is what keeps me sober. To be willing to do things I don't want to do, but things that are good for me. I made new friends and AA people have become my new family.

There is a lot more I could add to this story. Like how AA helped me to forgive my mom and my sisters and brothers. Or how I had spiritual awakenings after working some of the twelve steps. The flowers looked more beautiful than ever and I didn't even remember my yard having flowers! In the fall the trees looked so much more colorful and the snow sparkled in the winter. I was starting to have some serenity. Life kept happening and I became apart of it. Problems happen and other AA members help me through. And God is becoming more important to me. Now I can live my life and help others find their way too.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**NIA Districts 10 & 12**  
invite you to the  
**34th Annual Illinois**  
**State Conference**  
**August 3-5, 2007**  
**Marriott Lincolnshire Resort**  
**Lincolnshire, Illinois**  
**10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, IL 60069**  
For more information or to volunteer, call  
Steve K. at 847-746-3479  
Ray L. at 847-336-1393,  
or go to: [www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual McHenry's Soberfest

November 16-17-18, 2007

Grand Geneva Resort Lake Geneva, WI

AA Conference \* Banquet \* Dance \* Alcathons \* Panels \* Step Workshop \* Literature \* Archives

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### AL-ANON

Craig Omaha, NE  
Juanita Santa Fe, NM

### AA

Janice D. Denver, CO  
Lillie H. South Portland, ME  
Rick C. Muscatine, IA  
Sterling H. Omaha, NE

### ALATEEN

Autumn T  
Antioch, IL

\*Signing (ASL) will be provided during Main Speakers\*

REGISTRATION IS **REQUIRED** FOR **EVERYONE** TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PART OF THE CONFERENCE

For Soberfest/Registration Information: [www.soberfest.org](http://www.soberfest.org)

WE URGE YOU TO RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PROMPTLY.

**PICK UP THE FULL REGISTRATON FORM FROM  
YOUR GSR AND FROM MANY MEETING ROOMS**

On-Site Registration opens at 2:00pm, Friday November 16, 2007

Conference Sessions begin at 3:00pm, Friday November 16, 2007

THIS YEAR'S BANQUET WILL SEAT ~1200 IN THE SAME ROOM

***For Additional Information Please Contact:***

AA - Bryan L. 847/533-9184 or Kathy K. 847/603-1264 Al-Anon – Lori N. 847/525-2320

Alateen – Holly H 847/426-0902 Young AA – Trish M. 815/943-4211

**We Need Over 300 Volunteers! If you can help, contact the people above for more information.**