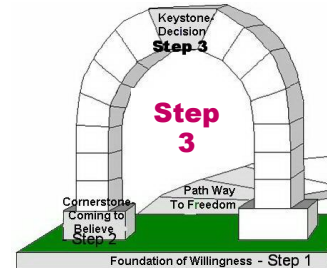


# INTO ACTION

*Made A Decision to Turn Our Will & Our Lives Over to the Care Of God As We Understood Him.*



## Step Three Thoughts

What does Step 3 mean? Does this mean that I have to become a holy man? What is God's will? It seems like every time I have let go and trusted I got hurt. Now you're asking me to take myself completely out of the equation and abandon myself to something I really don't understand. I asked my sponsor early in my recovery, "God, who, what, where, when, how and why;" because my unsatisfied mind had to know. He replied, "What difference does it make?"

The imprisoning thoughts disappeared instantly. And that's when I finally began to surrender.

Once I gave up trying to understand God and instead looked at the evidence of God's presence in my life, I began to develop a knowing that went beyond understanding. Suddenly I just knew that a force was working miracles in my life, that it was always available to me, and that it would never let me down.

**SURRENDER IS NOT A  
HEROIC SACRIFICE,  
BUT A SIMPLE SINKING  
INTO THE WILL OF GOD**



This knowing is what I now call faith, and now I understand why trying to figure God out just makes His job harder...

In the "Acceptance" story of the Big Book, it reads that I judged myself by my intentions while the world was judging me by my actions (p. 418). Intentions are usually followed by more intentions and decisions are followed by action. So the decision begins to be carried out when Step 4 is started, continued with 5 through 9 by acting differently in Step 7, practicing the opposite of our defects as stated on pages 67 and 69 (selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, frightened, inconsiderate).

Then treating others differently by carrying out in Step 9 what we learned in Step 8 so we don't cause more harm to them or others; remorseful enough to amend (change) my life. That is letting go (acting differently) with God's direction and strength in my life, not our own. We then continue make that decision as a choice, one day at a time, practicing Step 10 for today which molds our tomorrow.

I can make a decision to go on vacation; buy tickets, pack my bags but nothing happens until I get on the plane and go. Einstein said, "Nothing happens until something moves." The archer makes a decision to shoot the arrow at a target, nothing happens until the arrow flies. If there is no action following the "decision" then it is still only an intention, is it not? It is OK if we desire to mature spiritually. We will grow out of it "if" we practice the principles and depending on the amount of resistance we drop.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from the front page)

Now we are deciding to turn our will and life over to the care of God; turn our thoughts and actions over to the CARE of God until I learn to use my will properly. I haven't done so well to this point.

I have not been able to see what my thoughts and actions have been, hence the inventories in Step 4, admitting the exact nature of my wrongs in Step 5 (selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, frightened, inconsiderate – the grosser handicaps); making a choice to admit that they are objectionable or not in Step 6 and humbly asking them to be removed in Step 7 or not asking. Seeing that my actions had caused harm to other people I put them on a list in Step 8 and then went out and repaired the damage done by declaring my wrongs and asking what may be done to rectify the harms done, provided it doesn't still cause more harm in doing so in Step 9.

Then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step prayer from the Big Book page 63. We were now at Step Three. Many of us said to our Maker, as we understood Him:

## THIRD STEP PRAYER

**"God, I offer myself to Thee -- to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!"**

- I can't, He can, and I'll let him.
- Thee and Thy (nor Thou) are not me any longer
- My burdens are heavy cause I'm trying to run the world.(See p. 60-61)
- There is a better way, His way.
- The rooms are full of evidence.
- How free do I want to be?
- Victim to Victor (victory over my difficulties...)
- Voicing limits my thoughts to the words of the prayer.

".... The wording was, of course, quite optional so long as we expressed the idea, **voicing** it without reservation. This was only a beginning, though if honestly and humbly made, an effect, sometimes a very great one, was felt at once."

We make a decision to let God, as we understand him, the Great Reality (p.55) become the Power Greater in our thoughts and actions until we learn to use "it" as we think He would have us use it, our will; aligning our will with

His. We can exercise our will power along this line all we wish. It is the proper use of the will. (p. 85)

Making this decision doesn't automatically cure our spiritual malady but it sets us on the road of happy destiny as we grow in understanding and effectiveness, contingent on our spiritual makeup of the day.

Submitted Anonymously

## Sharing E S & H

In Step Three, Rev. Sam Shoemaker, Leader of the Oxford Group in the USA, taught about the crisis of self-surrender as the turning point for a person's life. Sam Shoemaker illustrated a typical surrender, using language similar to that in A.A.: namely, a "decision to cast my will and my life on God." Many times, Sam said one need only **surrender as much of himself as he understands to as much of God as he understands;** a clear precursor of A.A.'s "God as we understood Him".



When the big book was being put together and copies were being reviewed between New York and Akron, one set wanted a religious spiritual book and the other side

wanted a psychological one.

Members had drifted into two opposing camps -- a pro-religion faction led by Fitz Mayo, (Our Southern Friend, Big Book story) Jim Burwell's (The Agnostic and Author Of "The Vicious Cycle, Big Book story) boyhood schoolmate, argued that the book should reflect the teachings of the churches, missions, and, especially, the Oxford Group. The agnostic members, spearheaded by Jim Burwell's and Hank Parkhurst, were vehemently against a theological or "religious" orientation, believing in a practical, psychological approach.

Heated discussions went on for days and nights, but out of it all came the answer. The agnostics persuaded the others to accept the compromise language of **"God, as we understand Him."** This non-dogmatic idea opened the door to uncountable numbers of alcoholics who otherwise would not have entered our recovery program.

Live Well ~ Laugh Often ~ Love Much

# District 11 Answering Service

## IS Looking for VOLUNTEERS.

### NEEDED IMMEDIATELY -

Primary Tuesday, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Primary Friday, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Tertiary -3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday – Saturday 7:00 pm – 7:00 am

### INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE ANSWERING SERVICE:

There are three volunteers during each day part, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm, that the Answering Service calls when someone calls the A.A. Answering Service for District 11; Primary-1<sup>st</sup> called, Secondary-2<sup>nd</sup> called and Tertiary-3<sup>rd</sup> called, at 815-455-3311 for English or 847-695-9123 for Espanola.



### ANSWERING SERVICE CONTACT WITH LISTED AA VOLUNTEER:

The Answering Service staff member will call the Primary volunteer listed for that day first. If the Answering Service Staff member does not get an answer at the Primary volunteer number, they will move to the second and if not answered there they will move to the third member on the list, then to other people on their call list. When the Answering Service staff person gets a hold of the A.A. Volunteer they will give the volunteer the contact information of the person who is seeking help, their first name and phone number; the reason they called, to speak to an AA member for AA information, to get help, information on meetings, etc.... Usually the AA volunteer can answer most calls.

### NEED:

There are currently two volunteers during the evening day part, 7:00 pm – 7:00 am, Monday through Saturday. We could use another volunteer in the third spot over night.

### AA VOLUNTEER CONTACTS THE SUFFERER: OTHER VOLUNTEERS ON CALL-BACK LIST FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> STEP CALL IF NEEDED:

Once the AA volunteer has the contact information for the person seeking help they make the call-back to that person answer any questions they may have if they can be answered at this time.

### OTHER VOLUNTEERS ON CALL LIST FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> STEP CALL IF NEEDED:

If they need a 12<sup>th</sup> Step visit or personal contact with an AA volunteer at a meeting is needed ; the 1<sup>o</sup>, 2<sup>o</sup>, or 3<sup>o</sup> AA Volunteer has a list on additional volunteers to call. The additional volunteers are listed by town and the AA volunteer 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> can contact them to either meet with or take a 12<sup>th</sup> step call to the alcoholic that is suffering.

*How It Works Diagram*

Suffering person → → main Answering Service → → Listed daily Answering Service AA volunteer → → Suffering Person and gives information or → → Listed daily Answering Service AA volunteer contacts → → Additional Listed AA volunteer for person contact.

### SAFETY FIRST

**CAUTION –PLEASE, FOR SAFETY NO ONE GO ON A 12<sup>TH</sup> STEP CALL ALONE OR ENTER INTO ANY SITUATION THAT MAY BE HARMFUL. IF YOU HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE 12<sup>TH</sup> STEP CALL LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.**

NEED ALSO



### SAFETY FIRST

**WE ALSO ARE BEGINNING TO UPDATE THE ADDITIONAL AA VOLUNTEER CALL LIST. IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL OR SEND YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO:**

**David G.\* @ Home-815-344-652, Cell 815-245-4376 email: soulsurgery@comcast.net  
or Kyle W. @ 815-353-6944 email: kwoods807@gmail.com**

**We Ask One Year Of Continuous Sobriety Please**

**Forward or call Needed Information**

**NAME \* & TOWN(S) YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO AIDE SUFFERER \* PHONE NUMBER \* EMAIL IF AVAILABLE**

# Monthly Meeting Minutes

## District 11

### March 6th, 2014

(Editor's Note: Dates and times contained in the following minutes are a reflection from the minutes taken on March 6th, 2014 not the date of this publication.)

**Meeting time: 7:30pm**  
**Attendance: 27**  
**Committee members: 12**  
**Groups represented: 15**  
**New GSRs present: 3**  
**Anniversaries: Judy P. with 17 years**

Secretary's Report: Kelly G. Secretary, OPEN Alt Secretary  
 I have been working with Carol and Mary to update group information to send to Area and GSO, This will be done by the end of March.

Motion made by Pete L. to accept minutes, seconded by Judy P. Motion to accept minutes passed.  
 Please send written committee reports to secretary to be submitted into minutes.

**Email: [secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org](mailto:secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org)**

## DCM Report:

Carol H. DCM, Doug W. Alt DCM

First of all want to thank Doug for stepping in for last month's meeting and all the other active help he has provided. The planning for the 2014 Spring Conference Assembly has really heightened in the past month with two meetings of the district 10, 11 and 12 committees in the past couple weeks. Bob P. the Conference Chair will hopefully share with us the current status of registrations, room nights, and banquets, but if you have not already made your reservation please do so soon. The program committee has been working hard at putting together a line-up of workshops and panels on Saturday afternoon with topics like The Home Group, Bridging the Gap, Traditions and Concepts of 10, 11 & 12, Our Program in Print (Archives, Grapevine, Literature), a skit presented by the Flying Geese called a Spiritual Experience, Not Your Average Burning Bush and much more. There are still many volunteer opportunities and all this can be found on the website:

**[www.niaspringconference.com](http://www.niaspringconference.com)**

In preparation for the 64th General Service Conference our NIA Delegate and Alternate Delegate have prepared and provided the agenda and background materials for all of us to review. We have one disc but can make more if anyone would like the background material to review for the agenda items. These are not items which will be voted on during the upcoming NIA Spring Assembly.

We will have our NIA Delegate Cheryl V. at our next district meeting to answer any of our questions and to discuss any of the agenda items that you may feel strongly about so please look over the information and let us know if you would like of the background material. As was suggested by our past delegate it might be helpful to focus on one or two agenda items instead of trying to understand and provide feedback on all of them. We will have additional time to provide Cheryl with our views and feedback (this is where GSRs participate and share their groups concerns) at the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 12, 2014 in LaFox, IL.

As the voice of our service body has determined at the last district meeting, we will be moving our meeting in April to the new location in Crystal Lake. We have plenty of flyers on the table for everyone to distribute so please take some and share them with every meeting you attend.

Since our last meeting we have put in place some volunteers in the LCM positions that have been working hard to update the meeting/group information by towns. They are Mary F. for McHenry, Diana F. for Wauconda, Brenda O. for Harvard and Pat C. Cary & Fox River Grove. Mary has found additional volunteers to assist with updating the meeting information for other towns but we still have several more that need assistance. If you or any one that you know is interested in helping we have the information change forms from NIA that need to be updated and returned by April 1st; to our Area Registrar.

We will also be updating the schedule once we receive all the updates and have copies for distribution at the Spring Conference Assembly and our next district 11 meeting. New pink labels for the pink can as well as new envelopes with the Area's new address are available.

Doug- the disc for agenda items can be edited so you can have the background for items which you are interested in. Contact Doug W. through [dcm@aa-nia-dist11.org](mailto:dcm@aa-nia-dist11.org)



**NIA 2014 Spring  
 Assembly /  
 Conference  
 March 28-30**

**Hosted by NIA 20  
 Districts 10, 11 & 12**

*Living in 10, 11 & 12*

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO  
 ATTENDED – WONDERFULLY  
 SUCCESSFUL**

**Treasurer Report:**

Bill M. Treasurer, Rick O. Alt Treasurer  
 February flew by. My day job kept me very busy and I didn't have much time for my side projects. March is looking like I will have a bit more time. I will keep the same goals for next month with regards to the tax-exempt status and getting the new spreadsheets up and running. The mailbox was emptied, thank you letters sent and bills paid.

Account Summary

Starting Balance: \$6,956.38  
 January Income: \$1,201.62  
 Total Expenses: \$364.22  
 Ending Balance: \$7,793.78



**February Income –  
 January Contributions**

Group Name	Amount
12 Steps to Freedom	\$25.00
Big Book 164	\$40.00
AA group	\$270.00
Men's Fellowship Group	\$240.00
Thurs. Priority Big Book	\$88.00
Thurs. Priority Big Book	\$30.00
Monday Big Book	\$50.00
HALT	\$46.62
Folded	\$120.00
Dawn Patrol	\$197.00
Thursday Morning Big Book	\$60.00
Monday BB Study	\$123.00
	<u>\$1,289.62</u>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
 CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Public Information Report:**

Jody P. Chair, Pete L. Alt Chair  
 The committee has been working on contacting the appropriate Principals for each of the Crystal Lake main High Schools (Central, South, and Prairie Ridge) to arrange an appointment with them to talk about bringing presentations into the schools. I followed up my written letters with phone calls and am awaiting a response from those Principals. I don't want to be annoying, but at the same time need to be diligent and persevering about carrying the message. I have been able to get Open Meeting announcements on the local cable access channels for Crystal Lake, McHenry, and Woodstock at the respective Alano Clubs, and giving the Answering Service phone number as a contact number "For more info".

I also talked to Dave G. about getting some announcements out in the local newspapers. He shared some of his wisdom and experience with me from when he was on the PI Committee. So that is forthcoming.  
 Thanks to Dave G. More will be revealed.



**Corrections Report:**

Bob D. Chair, Cheryl B. Alt Chair  
 Cases of Big Books were bought to use for corrections and volunteers will soon start going through the steps with the male inmates. Cheryl has done a fabulous job and has increased the women volunteers by three more women. The process for volunteering for corrections has been revamped so that people wanting to volunteer go through a screening with the correction chairs and are then sent to apply through the county. A pizza party hosted by the corrections committee will be held March 31st so anyone interested in corrections can attend to get information, ask questions, and catch a buzz for service. A flyer will be circulated. Please RSVP so an appropriate amount of pizza is ordered.

**Hospital & Treatment Report:**

Mitch P. Chair, OPEN Alt  
 Rosecrans Crystal Lake had the Bridge the Gap meeting on Wednesday the 5th of March at 10:00am and at 6:00pm. The facility is located at 422 Tag Way, Crystal Lake. Bob D. has been coordinating this Bridge the Gap. A new beginner meeting started at this location at 8 PM on Wednesdays. All are welcome to attend.

Rosecrans McHenry Bridge the gap is on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am and then again at 6:00pm. Clint K has been organizing these bridge the gap meetings. There is also a weekly meeting here at 7:30pm.  
 Bridge the gap was also at the Woodstock Hospital on the last Thursday of the month at 9:00am.



**Answering Service Report:**

Dave G. Chair, Kyle W. Alt Chair  
 More volunteers are needed and a current list should soon be provided. This list is currently on Google Docs, so it can be easily accessed and updated by committee members. This is on the answering service's agenda for March.

**Types of Calls**

Meeting Info.	39
Open Mtg.	1
Speak To AA Member	10
NA	0
12th Step Calls	3
Questions About AA	1
Out of District Calls	0
Al-Anon	1
Treatment Info.	2
Bridge the Gap	0
Spanish Speaking	3
Needs Ride	2
Refused Message	2
Hang Up	7
Web-site	1
Contributions to	1
Students	1
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>74</b>

**Call Response Times**

0-10 Minutes	64
11-20 Minutes	4
21-30 Minutes	1
Over 30 Minutes	5
<b>Time of Calls</b>	
Monday Day	14
Monday Night	0
Tuesday Day	13
Tuesday Night	0
Wednesday Day	7
Wednesday Night	2
Thursday Day	7
Thursday Night	1
Friday Day	9
Friday Night	1
Saturday Day	6
Saturday Night	0
Sunday Day	9
Sunday Night	1
Day = 7:AM – 7:PM	
Evening 7:PM – 7:AM	

**CPC Report:**

OPEN Chair, OPEN Alt  
No report

**Archives Report:**

Clarence J. Chair

Thanks to everyone that helped out with and attended the Old Timer's Brunch. The following is the financial report from the brunch.

**Assets**

50/50	\$315
Brunch	\$837
Total	\$1952

**Expenditures**

Walmart	\$106.25
Dollar Store	\$8. 60
Island Foods	\$14.67
Sam's Club	\$715.28
Jewel	\$116.88
GFS Marketplace	\$38.45
Rent	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1150.13</b>
Net	\$802.13
Seed Money	\$800.00

**Net Profit \$2.13**

# OLD TIMERS BRUNCH #'S

**Grapevine Report:**

Tim B. Chair, OPEN Alt  
No report

**Special Needs Report:**

OPEN Chair, OPEN Alt  
No report

**LCM Report:**

OPEN Chair, OPEN Alt  
Individual volunteers for LCM having been gathering information in order to update meeting information.

**Schedules Report:**

Esther M. Chair, Caitlin H. Alt

Any new updates should be submitted to the schedule-maker if you have any to make.

Too many mistakes are on the current schedule which is why only 1000 were printed. Once all the updates are collected 2500 schedules will be printed as usual. It was suggested for the district to print 1500 schedules without phone numbers which are used for the general public such as treatment centers and police stations.

Dr. Bob, my co-partner, had his own religious views. For whatever they may be worth, I have my own. But both of us have gone heavily on the record to the effect that these personal views and preferences can never under any conditions be injected into the AA program as a working part of it. AA is a sort of spiritual kindergarten, but that is all. Never should it be called a religion.

*Bill W.*

(The 'Blue Book', Vol.12, 1960)

David G. Chair, OPEN Alt Chair

UPDATE- APRIL/MAY DEADLINE is May 17<sup>th</sup> – Theme is, Discovering Liabilities Become Assets, or anything you wish to submit. Email to: [Soulsurgeery@comcast.net](mailto:Soulsurgeery@comcast.net)

A couple copies are left of the February/March issue. March 22nd is the submission for the April/May issue. There has been some feedback on an article in the February/March issue which was not an AA based article. Articles are usually edited so it is strictly AA and wasn't with this past article. It is up to members of the district to help create the newsletter with articles and other submissions.

**Webmaster:**

Laura M. Chair, Mary C. Alt  
No report

**Workshop**

Report: Karrie T. Chair, OPEN Alt  
No report

**GSR Reports:****Winners and Beginners-**

May 17<sup>th</sup> is the group's anniversary at the Messiah Lutheran Church, doors opening at 5pm, dinner at 6pm, and a 7pm speaker. The dinner is free and a flyer will be sent out soon.

**Hope Factory-** May 17<sup>th</sup> is the group's 5th Anniversary celebration at Faith Lutheran High School in Crystal Lake. \$10.00 tickets for a pasta and chicken dinner and speaker. Doors open at 6pm and the s

**Upcoming Events**

District 11 Corrections Committee Meeting – **March 31, 2014** at The Pointe Outreach Center in Crystal Lake starting at 6pm with pizza and pop being served at 6:30pm. Discussion will be on what goes on in jail meetings, who is allowed to attend jail meetings, and who to contact if you want to get involved or need more information. Great service opportunity.

**March 15th Night out at the Dole- March 15th, 2014 at 401 Country Club Rd, Crystal Lake. Doors open at 7pm with a speaker at 7:30pm. Speakers are Alex L. and Kate L.. This is an Open Meeting.**

Harvard Alano Club is starting game night every Friday at 8pm after the 7pm meeting.

**March 28th-30th, EACYCAA- March 28th-30th, held downtown Chicago at the Hyatt McCormick Place.**

**April 5th** Last Chance House 10th Annual Fundraising Banquet – Saturday April 5th, 2014 at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn Conference Center in Crystal Lake. Doors open at 5pm and event goes until 9:30pm. Banquet includes auctions, raffles, dinner, and Mickey Bush as the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$75 per person or 10 seat tables are available for \$650.



**EVENTS - CONTINUED****PRE-GENERAL SERVICE  
CONFERENCE WORKSHOP****AT LORD OF LIFE CHURCH IN LA FOX,  
40W605 IL ROUTE 38  
ELBURN, IL 60119  
SE CORNER OF IL RTE. 38 AND LA FOX RD.****SATURDAY  
APRIL 12TH****REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00AM  
THIS EVENT IS BEING HOSTED IN A  
COOPERATIVE EFFORT  
BY THE AREA 20 CPC/PI COMMITTEES  
JOE S. - [CPC@AA-NIA.ORG](mailto:CPC@AA-NIA.ORG)  
JIM W. - [PUBLCINFORMATION@AA-NIA.ORG](mailto:PUBLCINFORMATION@AA-NIA.ORG)****Apr 27 - May 3 64TH GENERAL SERVICE  
CONFERENCE, RYE TOWN HILTON HOTEL  
RYE, NY****May 10 Spring Committee Meeting in LaFox, IL  
June 14 Summer Assembly / Post-GSC Panel 64 Delegate  
Report -LocationTBA- District 21 & 28, Hosts****June 20-2214th Annual Midwest Motorcycle AA  
Convention Pecatonica, IL June 20-22****Old Business:**

The District meeting is moving next month to Crystal Lake.  
Flyers are available and are being passed around throughout  
the district.

**Open Positions**

*Alt secretary, Alt Grapevine, Literature Chair, Alt  
Literature, Alt Special Needs, and Alt Workshop*

Judy P. stood for CPC chair, passed by majority vote.

Michelle F. stood for Alt CPC, passed by majority vote.

Bob K. stood for special needs chair, passed by majority  
vote.

Caitlin H. stood for Alt Hospital/treatment, passed by  
majority vote.

**Motions to be voted on at the Spring Assembly**

- Motion by the Web Administrator: It is moved that the Area create the new appointed position of Alternate Web Administrator
- Motion by Delegate: The Panel 64 Delegate moves to provide reimbursement for up to 6 people to attend the 2014 East Central Regional Conference in Perrysburg, OH on July 25-27.
- Motion by Delegate: It is moved that the Area Treasurer reimbursed NIA officers, standing committee chairs, and administrative committee chairs for the printing of reports to the committee meeting and the assembly

**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

**District 11 G.S.R. Meetings Are Held On the  
1st Thursday of the Month at the:  
First Congregational Church,  
461 Pierson St  
Crystal Lake, IL. 60014**

**NEW****CONTRIBUTIONS**

From Group (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dist. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Northern Illinois District 11**

P.O. Box 846

McHenry, IL 60051-0846**NIA Treasurer**

NIA

PO Box 51

Lake Bluff, IL

60044

**The General Service Office**

AAWS

P.O. Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163-0459

**DISTRICT 11's WEB SITE:↓**<http://www.aa-nia-dist11.org>**DISTRICT 11 SECRETARY:↓**[secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org](mailto:secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org)**SOBERFEST WEB SITE:↓**<http://www.soberfest.org/>**NIA 20 EVENTS WEB SITE:↓**<http://www.aa-nia.org/events.html>**NEW GROUP & INFO. CHANGE FORMS↓**<http://www.aa-nia.org/forms.html>

**Open mic**

Doug W.- Soberest positions open: co-technical, co-secretary, co-marketing.

Visit the website for all information at:

[soberfest.org](http://soberfest.org)

**Open committee meetings are held every other week at the McHenry Township Building in Johnsburg at 7:30pm.**

Mary F. - Any ladies who are going to the upcoming Spring Assembly only (as opposed to the weekend conference) can contact her if a ride is needed.

Updated – next meeting

**The next district meeting is Thursday April 3rd,  
MAY 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 at 7:30pm.**



## A STEP 3 PARABLE

A drunk is staggering along the street and he meets God. "God, I can't do this anymore,

he says."

**Please, please, will you give me sobriety?"**

God says, "Sobriety isn't free, how much money have you got?" The drunk reaches into his pocket. "Fifty bucks." "I'll take it," says God, "you're sober." The man stands up straight, drunk no more. It feels pretty good. "Yeah but, God?" "Yes?" "I know I gave you my money willingly. But, you see, I need to get gas for my car." "You have a car?" says God. "Well, yes." "You didn't tell Me that. I'll take the car."

"But..." "I'll take the car. It's part of the price for your sobriety." "But how will I get to work?" "You have a job? I'll take the job, too." "But God, how will I pay my mortgage?" "Mortgage? You have a house? I'll take that too." "But God, my family. How will I take care of them if you have my house and my job?" God says to him gently and lovingly: "In order to keep your sobriety; you must give Me these things.

But I will let you drive My car as long as you remember it's My car. You can have the job, but remember you're working it for me. It's My house but I will let you live in it. And as for the family, they are My family but I will trust you to take care of them."



# HOPE FACTORY

~Young Peoples Big Book Study Group~  
Where miracles are in the making!

**Come Help Us Celebrate Our  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
The Big Book & Your  
Personal Recovery**

# SATURDAY- MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

**At Faith Lutheran High School  
174 McHenry Ave.**

**Crystal Lake, IL. 60014**

**Fellowship begins @ 6:00 pm**

**Dinner @ 7:00 pm**

**SPEAKER CHAD S.**

**FROM BLOOMINGTON**

**Dance to follow**

**Suggested Donation \$10.**

**Any Questions contact**

**Mike C. 847-652-5672 or**

**Billy C. 815-701-2984**



## Fire Trucks Are Red Because

Fire trucks have four wheels and eight men. Everyone knows that four and eight make twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth, a ruler, is also the name of the largest ship on the seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. Russians are red. Fire trucks are always rushing, therefore fire trucks are red. If you think this is wild, you should hear some people explain why they don't have time to attend meetings.

**Taken from NIA Winter Concepts Service Letter 2014**

<http://www.aa-nia.org/door1.html>



## "WHAT I'VE HAD TO FIGURE OUT IS THAT I CAN'T FIGURE ANYTHING OUT."

While still in my late teens, I appeared in court for the third time that year. The judge told me that I had disgraced my mother and my father and that he had no sympathy for the likes of me: "*Ninety days in the Indiana State Penal Farm!*" My heart sank. Happily, my wonderful father spoke with the sheriff who put in a good word for me and I was released on probation and ordered not to drink. Trembling with fear, I resolved to quit drinking forever—I was nineteen. I figured that I had solved my problem, but not one of the following twenty years passed but what I resolved to 'quit drinking forever,' especially during times of another release from the drunk-tank or being fired. I just couldn't figure out why 'quitting drinking forever' just got me drunk.

Another thing I couldn't figure out is why I couldn't leave the bar room until closing time and often went on a non-stop spree for several days. I couldn't figure out why once the boozing started I couldn't stop, but when I finally stopped, I couldn't stop starting up again. What a dilemma! But, when I came through the doors of AA, I learned that my mind contained a mental obsession (They called it a drunken monkey) and that my body was possessed by a physical allergy that demanded I continue drinking once I started. So, I then concluded that I had my alcoholic problem all figured out.

After scanning the Big Book, I figured that if I would just go to meetings and pray the Third Step Prayer every day I would then be home free! But alas, that drunken monkey still chattered incessantly and I feared I was headed for deep chicken fat trouble. So, I figured I needed a sponsor who would teach me the rest of the steps—I did, and he did, and then I figured out that I had solved my problem.

Nope! Even as I began living in the spirit of Steps 10, 11 & 12 the monkey chattering continued. I figured out that I was destined to be a goner. All I knew to do was, "Let go and let God." Then, all at once, during the summer of 1976, that exasperating obsession left me and has never returned. I have never been able to figure that one out either! But what I *have* figured out is that I can't figure *anything* out. I can't, but God can, I think I'll let Him.

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<http://www.4dgroups.org/>

## Heard Around the Tables DISTRICT 11'S WISDOM AND WITTICISMS

- I'd like to think that I paid for my seat in these rooms, but when I did the steps, I came to realize that really it's my family, my colleagues, and my friends that paid for my seat in these rooms.
- When you know that you are 100% right – get another opinion!
- Three Dragons = self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives. BB Page 86
- The thing a bunch of years in the program gives me is that I'm more familiar with the tools in my tool box. But I still have to take the action of picking up the tools, or they're going to get rusty.
- We're told again and again that we have to be selfish about our own recovery, but this seems to be in conflict with the fact that selfishness is the root of our problem. How can selfishness be both good and bad? The selfishness we need for recovery is a devotion to self-improvement, rather than the selfish indulgence that made us sick.
- "When I'm in the middle of another one of those "challenging growth opportunities," it seems like it is going to be this way forever . . . it is at those times that it is hardest for me to remember that 'it came to pass,' it didn't come to stay!"
- A\_GO = ANOTHER -----Growth Opportunity
- "My recovery is like trying to go up on the down escalator . . . I can get there, but I've got to move right along!"
- "Survival on the fellowship only is untreated alcoholism"
- "I can't, God can, I think I'll let Him, is a great cliché,' but it is only a beginning.
- When 'keep coming back' is chanted at meetings, I never join in. Rather, I shout out "Don't leave!"
- Spirituality is...the awareness that survival is a savage fight between you and yourself.
- Sponsee: Alcoholics Anonymous is brain-washing me!  
Sponsor: No, dear. You're being dry-cleaned!
- Hey!  
These Buffalo Wings Taste Like Chicken!