

INTO ACTION

High Praise for the Charm

I don't know if this is helpful toward what you are looking for but...

High Praise for the Charm of Recovering Alcoholics

There are times when I wish I were an alcoholic. I mean I wish I were a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. The reason is that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, it has been my privilege to meet many people who are considered charming. I number among my friends stars and lesser lights on stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet; I know ladies and gentlemen of



both political parties; I have been entertained in the White House; I've broken bread with kings, ambassadors and ministers; and I say that I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any person I've indicated. I asked myself why I considered so charming these alcoholic

caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in AA. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few. The AA people are what they are, and they are what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor, an awareness of the universal truth. They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they found their restoration they are as sensitive as ever; responsive to the beauty and the truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions. *(Continued on Page 2)*

(Charm-Continued from the Front Page)

They are possessed of a sense of universal truth that is often new in their heart. This fact that this at-one moment with God's universe had never been awakened within them is the reason they drink. They have found a power greater than themselves, which they diligently serve. And that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on the land and sea; it makes you know that God is charming, because the AA people reflect his mercy and forgiveness.

They are imaginative, and that helped make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imaginations onto greater efforts. Others guzzled only to block out unendurable visions that arose in their imaginations. But when they found their restorations, their imagination is responsive to new incantations and their talk abounds with color and might, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed a sense of humor. Even in their cups they have known to be damnably funny. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek their escape in the bottle. But when they found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to laugh at themselves, the very height of self-conquest. Go to their meetings and listen to their laughter. At what are they laughing?

At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

by Fulton Oursler



(Fulton Oursler was a magazine editor, religious author, and Hollywood screenwriter, and was an early Oxford Group member and friend to AA. He passed away in the year 1952. His official relationship with AA is as follows: Sept. 30, 1939, the very popular weekly Liberty Magazine, headed by Fulton Oursler, carried a piece titled "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey (who was influenced to write the article by Charles Towns). It generated about 800 inquiries from around the nation. Oursler (author of The Greatest Story Ever Told) became good friends with Bill W and later served as a Trustee and member of the Grapevine editorial board. In Oct. 1949, Dr. William D. Silkworth and Fulton Oursler joined the Alcoholic Foundation Board.) See Big Book, Pg xviii, near the top.



***The 19th Annual McHenry Soberfest committee for the 2008 event will have its future meetings at the Home State Bank, McHenry at 7:30 PM; April 16, April 30th, May 7th, May 21st, July 30th.... (AA FunRaiser May 10th 2008 Volunteers wanted)**

***The bank is located at 4401 Prime Parkway, McHenry, the corner of Route 31 & Prime Parkway, just south of Northern Illinois Medical Center on Route 31.**

The **Hospitality committee** for the 19 annual McHenry Soberfest is in need of volunteers to be greeters and also for groups to sponsor hospitality rooms. The greeter positions will be for one hour. The hospitality rooms will be for two hours. You can e-mail us at hospitality@soberfest.org. We will also have sign up sheets at the fund raisers. Thank you for your service. Tom C & Rich B

“By choosing its most qualified man or woman as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future – and the future of A.A. as a whole.”

When you're a G.S.R.

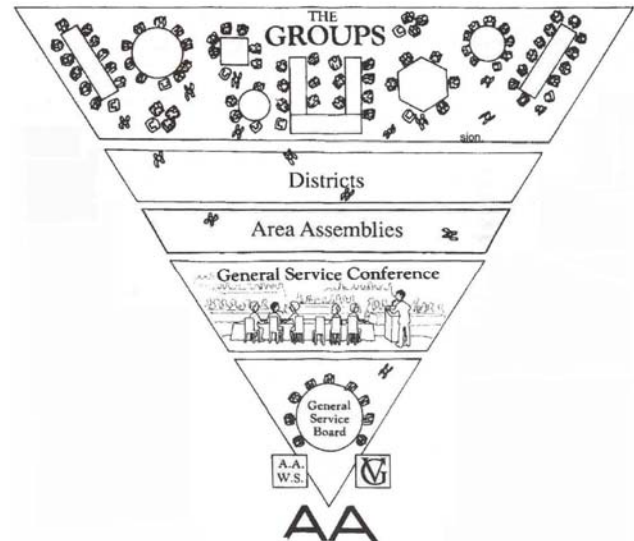
You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the “group contact” was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information between individual groups and “Headquarters” (now the General Service Office). That's still an important side of your work. **But now, as General Service Representative, you have an even bigger responsibility: You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience becomes a part of “the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship,” as expressed in the General Service Conference.** Like everything else in A.A., it works through a series of simple steps. (For the complete picture in detail, read The A.A. Service Manual.)

General services

1 At district meetings, you join with G.S.R.s from other groups. Perhaps you've already worked with an intergroup or central office, where groups band together to help alcoholics just in your locality. But your general service district is the second link in an entirely different chain, which extends much farther. Your district is one part of a general service area. With your fellow G.S.R.s, you elect a district committee member, and all the D.C.M.s make up the area committee. Now, do you just sit back and let your D.C.M. take it from there? No! G.S.R.s stay very much in action in each of the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada.

**District 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**

2 You attend area assemblies four times a year (in most areas). At the electoral assembly (held every two years), along with the other G.S.R.s and the D.C.M.s from the whole area, **you elect committee officers – and your area's Conference delegate.**



3 Just as you rely on your group for help in your personal recovery, so the A.A. groups of Canada and the U.S. rely on the General Service Conference in maintaining the unity and strength of our Fellowship – our obligation to all the alcoholics of today and tomorrow.

It's up to you to keep two-way communication going between your group and the Conference. Via your D.C.M. and your delegate, you can see to it that your group's conscience on matters of importance to all A.A. becomes a part of the consensus when these matters are discussed at the annual Conference meeting in April.

In return, you can enable your group to benefit from the meeting's sharing of experience among area delegates and the other Conference members. Your D.C.M. may want to present your delegate's report at a special group meeting. The D.C.M. receives a copy of the Final Conference Report, a full account of proceedings. Copies of the Report are available to groups upon request.

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Group services

4 As G.S.R., you are “group contact” in the original sense, too. Upon your election, your name and address are sent (by you or your group secretary) to the secretary of your area committee, or your district or area registrar and to G.S.O. (Be sure to include, as well, the name of the G.S.R. you are replacing, so the records won't be confused.) You will be listed as contact for your group in the next printing of the appropriate A.A. Directory.

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5 In return, G.S.O. sends you the G.S.R. Kit (see the section below for some of its contents), and the bimonthly bulletin Box 4-5-9. You use these – and share them with the other members of your group. Are some pamphlets marked “new” on the Literature Order Form? You check the literature rack to make sure your group is offering all the sobriety tools available. Does Box 4-5-9 carry news of a future International convention? You spread the happy word.

6 Because you've made a special point of studying the information listed below, you can help when your group faces a problem involving one of the Traditions. You don't have to know all the answers – no one member possibly could – but you learn where to look for good suggestions, drawn from broad A.A. experience.

7 Thinking of Tradition Seven particularly, you work with the group treasurer to remind your group of its part in keeping all of A.A. Self-supporting. You explain the importance of financial support of your intergroup/central office, G.S.O., district and area committee, and the Birthday Plan for individual contributions.

8 Since you're in touch with A.A. throughout your area, you can bring to your group the news of upcoming local conventions. As G.S.R., you share with your fellow members the joy of widening A.A. horizons.

Information you'll need

9 On the general service structure: The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, “Inside A.A.,” and “Circles of Love and Service” – all in the G.S.R. Kit; in addition, the Final Conference Report.

10 On the Traditions: “A.A. Tradition – How It Developed” (kit); also Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, A.A. Comes of Age, and “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” **11 On group affairs:** “The A.A. Group” and “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (both in the kit); the A.A. Guidelines (listing of titles and prices in the Literature Catalog, which suggest ways your group can work with other groups and with agencies outside A.A.).

“The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance.”
Bill W.

G.S.R.

General Service Representative

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**District Information &
Current newsletter available@:
<http://www.dist11-aa-nia.org>
N.I.A.: <http://www.aa-nia.org/>**

THE AA CAMEL

*The camel each day goes
twice to his knees.
He picks up his load
with the greatest of ease.
He walks through the day
with his head held high.
And stays for that day,
completely dry.*



NIA SPRING ASSEMBLY

And

Pre-General Service Conference Workshop

April 5, 2008

Registration Opens: 8 am

Meeting Starts: 9 am

Westminster Presbyterian Church

**10 N. Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, IL. 60506**

(N.W. Corner of Edgelawn and Galena)

Same Location as the 2007 Nig Book Conference

**Lunch by Subway \$5 available on site
Your Hosts: District 64**

For further information, please contact:

Terry K. 630-917-4314 or

Lee O. 630-306-0388

More Info and Map: <http://www.aa-nia.org/>

Greetings,

I was asked by our Chairman and Delegate to pass along important information about the upcoming Assembly. In order to allow for more diverse participation, an opportunity will present itself to General Service Representatives. He/she will be provided with options starting at the registration desk. At the Spring Assembly and Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

- **GSRs can declare which committee they want to participate in.**
- **GSRs can ask to be assigned a committee**
- **GSRs can elect to stay in main room to consider Agenda and orientation**
- **NIA officers will be available at the registration desk to answer questions**
- **A large board listing Committees and breakout room locations will be posted.**

After a traditional opening of the Assembly and report by our Treasurer and Delegate, our Chairman will ask me, as Alternate Delegate, to give a brief overview of the workshop. We will then breakout into our committees. When we come back, our Chairman will call for the chairperson of each committee to report. He will ask for questions from the floor followed by discussion, and a sense of the Assembly.

We are asking that you pass along this correspondence to GSRs via e-mail in your District.

Thanks,

Dean Glosson
NIA 20 Alternate Delegate

Hello fellowship District Eleven!

A Message From Our D.C.M.

(March 25, 2008)

I hope you are enjoying nice spring weather today. This is an exciting time of year for AA World Services. The General Service Conference in New York will be held at the end of April.

Our Delegate wants to get a feel of the group conscious at the NIA Spring Assembly on April 5th (Westminster Presbyterian Church 10 N. Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, IL 60506) regarding the agenda items for the General Service Conference.

These agenda items have been distributed electronically to the GSRs and district service committees already. Anyone can check out the agenda items for the General Service Conference at the Area 20 web page (www.aa-nia.org). All GSRs from District 11 should plan to attend the NIA Spring Assembly. As a district in Northern Illinois Area (NIA), we in McHenry County have the opportunity to voice our collective conscious at the Assembly.



Our delegate will be voting on business matters that affect the whole fellowship, and we are being asked our opinions.

How often does that happen? Actually, it happens every year around this time. So check out the agenda items, encourage your groups to discuss them, and enlighten your GSR with your group conscious.

The following is a brief description of the Spring Assembly and Pre-General Service Conference Workshop:

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- GSRs can ask to be assigned a committee
- GSRs can elect to stay in main room to consider Agenda and orientation
- NIA officers will be available at the registration desk to answer questions
- A large board listing Committees and breakout room locations will be posted.

After a traditional opening of the Assembly and report by our Treasurer and Delegate, our Chairman will ask me, as Alternate Delegate, to give a brief overview of the workshop. We will then breakout into our committees. When we come back, our Chairman will call for the chairperson of each committee to report. He will ask for questions from the floor followed by discussion, and a sense of the Assembly. On a more local note, the District 11 business meetings are currently weighing options for meeting directory layouts. The current flyer form does not have room for wanderer meetings or Spanish-speaking meetings. Also, meetings that are held at the same time Monday thru Friday are all listed in one spot as opposed to being listed every day. A larger page without a section for phone numbers may be big enough for all the meetings. We are also considering a pocket-sized booklet, but that would be much more expensive to produce. Come to the District 11 business meeting to voice your opinion!

Yours Truly,

Dan Michel,
District 11 DCM

INTOAction: District 11's Newsletter

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

E-mail: TimB95@aol.com***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.

ABC's of Sponsorship

Always lead by example.

Build bridges not walls.

Challenge you to soar.

Do it one day at a time.

Encourage change.

Foster willingness.

Get you involved.

Help you do for yourself.

Invite questions.

Journey with you.

Keep an open mind.

Live in the now.

Make a difference.

Never give up on you.

Open hearts and minds.

Provide roots and wings.

Remember when.

Suit up and show up.

Treat you with respect.

Uncover talents and abilities.

Value love and service.

Work the steps.

Xplain how it works.

Yearn to keep it simple.

Zest to keep you coming back.

District 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

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?

DISTRICT 11's WEB SITE:<http://www.dist11-aa-nia.org/>**Are you IN or AROUND A.A.?**

Public Information, Corrections, Grapevine, Hospitals and Treatment, INTOACTION Newsletter, Answering Service, Archives, CPC, Bridge The Gap, Workshops, LCM....

A.A.'s Single Purpose

Tradition Five: *Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

"There are those who predict that A.A. may well become a new spearhead for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. When our friends say these things, they are both generous and sincere. But we of A.A. must reflect that such a tribute and such a prophecy could well prove to be a heady drink for most of us—that is, if we really came to believe this to be the real purpose of A.A., and if we commenced to behave accordingly.

"Our Society, therefore, will prudently cleave to its single purpose: the carrying of the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody."

A.A. co-founder Bill W., 1955

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Monthly Meeting Minutes for District 11 March 6th, 2008

(Editors Note: Dates and times contained in the following are a reflection from the minutes taken on January 3rd, not the date of this publication.)

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM

Attendance: 40

Committee Members: 14

Groups Represented: 19

Anniversaries: Dean G. – 15 years, Cheryl M. – 8 years,
Erik S. – 8 months

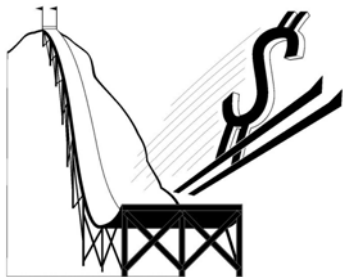
CONGRADULATIONS ON ALL ANNIVERSARIES!!!!

Secretary's Report: *Dan S.*

- Written committee reports must be submitted to secretary to be included in the minutes
- Schedule changes to be cross checked with district spreadsheet
- Correct Rachael's name on district roster

Treasurer's Report: *Lynn B.*

Beginning Balance	\$1,820.06
Expenses	\$507.66
Assets	<u>\$1,964.42</u>
Ending Balance	\$3,276.82



Old Business:

- Mike R. was nominated to fill the Hospital & Treatment Chairperson position: Thanks Mike, Good luck in your position
- **LCM positions are still open and in need of volunteers to fill. Please contact DCM if interested.**
- Prices on booklet styles schedules so far are 1K copies - \$945, 2K copies - \$1,408, 3K copies - \$1,820. Much discussion took place in regards to which meetings should be included and which ones shouldn't. The decision to print was tabled until further information could be gathered about meeting accuracy and better pricing.
- A vote to decide on changing the location for district meetings was tabled.

New Business:

- General Service Conference agenda was recommended to be read by GSR's, pertinent decisions taken to the their group, then show up at the conference and voice the opinion of their group to our delegate. A copy of that agenda is available on the NIA website or our DCM can email it to you again if needed.
- General Service Office department of records has sent all districts' hard copies of all group information. A record of each meeting was distributed to individuals to be verified and returned to the DCM or mailed to the area registrar.
- Sue C. has formed a committee to put together a picnic for the district with the intent to begin hosting a district picnic annually. Please take this to your groups for a vote and also bring back any questions for Sue.
- **Motion was made to raise the mileage rate from .14 per mile to .20 per mile. The motion was tabled after deadlock vote and it was suggested GSR's take the motion to their group and return with a group conscience next month.**
- Area Corrections chairperson made a request to the district treasurer to use the district PO Box for Correction correspondence within our district, rather than using people's home address. Will be worked out between those two committee's

Corrections: *Cheryl M.*

- Assembled a release packet approved by the jail.
- Also approved to bring in pamphlets and other literature.

C.P.C.: *Tammy C.*

- Receiving money for both chairpersons to attend NIA conference.

Answering Service: *Jim M.*

- Total calls – 149; 88 – meeting information, Open meeting info. – 2, Hang-up – 13, Wrong # - 3, Refused to give call back number – 10, NA/CA – 2, Needs help call out – 8, Al-anon – 5, Out of district – 11, Treatment info. – 2, ACOA – 1, Spanish info. – 4, Needs ride – 3, CODA – 1.

Newsletter: *David G. Up-dated by ed:*

- **Deadline for the June/July issues is May 17th.**
- Share your experience, strength and hope other news in the newsletter by emailing David G. at soulsurgery@comcast.net

Special Needs: *Chuck S.*

- Received copy of big book and 12&12 on VHS, which is in sign language and subtitle.
- Will be delivering meeting info. To certain facilities and also checking on starting a meeting.

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Workshop: Sue C.

- **Hosting a sponsorship workshop on April 12th at McHenry Township Sr. Center. Doors open at 4pm for dinner and fellowship. Workshop will start at 5pm and is scheduled until 9pm. will distribute a workbook and pamphlet to all who attend.**
- Working on the Unity Picnic for the district to be held annually.
- Will need two checks for \$75 each for site reservation.

Webmaster: Frank S.

- Send any updated event flyers to technical@dist11-aa-nia.org
- Maintained old and new flyers.
- Added Bridge The Gap email.
- Website friendly schedule has been received and needs a few modifications for proper publishing. Should be up by Friday, March 7th.

Upcoming Events:

- NIA Spring Assembly & Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, April 5th at 9am, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 N. Edgelawn Dr. Aurora, IL
- District 11 & Richmond group will present a sponsorship workshop on April 12, 2008 at McHenry Township Senior Center located at 3519 N. Richmond Rd., McHenry, IL 5pm-9pm doors open at 4pm.

Open Mic:

- *Sue C.*: Sponsorship workshop to be held April 12th at McHenry Township Senior Center. Dinner and fellowship start at 4pm. Workshop begins at 5pm. All are welcome. Flyers available
- *Dave G.*: Soberfest Committee needs volunteers and is having a **fundraiser Saturday May 10, 2008 at McHenry Township Hall on Rt. 31 in Johnsburg. Visit www.soberfest.org for more details.**
- *Brandon L.*: 2008 ISCYPAA State Conference appreciates the scholarship funds provided by the district. The conference did not receive the funds nor did they need them, however it was appreciated.
- ***Rich H.*: NIA Corrections chairperson requests anyone interested in being a pen pal with an inmate to send him an email at richh925@wonderwave.net**
- *Anon*: 26th Annual AA, AL-ANON, ALATEEN Tri-County Spring Conference will be held Saturday April 26, 2008 at U.A.W. Hall, 3615 Washington Rd., Kenosha, WI

Up-dated by ed:

******The next district meeting will be held May 1st, 2008******

Respectfully Submitted Dan Smith - Recording Secretary

The Group... Where A.A.'s Service Structure Begins

WHAT IS AN A.A. GROUP?

As the long form of Tradition Three clearly states, "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

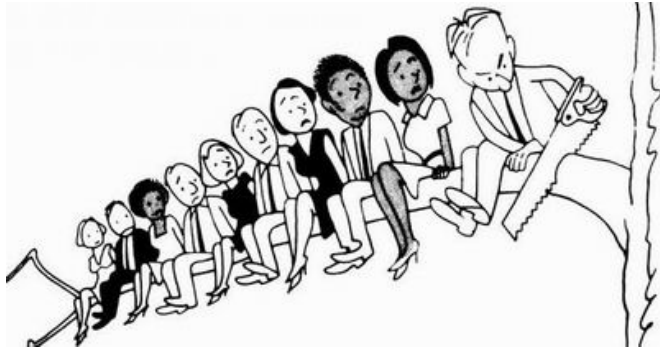
Further clarification of an A.A. group may be found in the Twelve Concepts for World Service, Concept Twelve, Warranty Six:

- no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles;
- no fees or dues to be levied—voluntary contributions only;
- no member to be expelled from A.A.—membership always to be the choice of the individual;
- each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes—it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally
- that any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation.

Some A.A.s come together as specialized A.A. groups—for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics, and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an A.A. group, they may call themselves an A.A. group.

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IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN a MEETING AND A GROUP?

Most A.A. members meet in A.A. groups as defined by, the long form of our Third Tradition (see page 42). However, some A.A. members hold A.A. meetings that differ from the common understanding of a group. These members simply gather at a set time and place 11 for a meeting, perhaps for convenience or other special situations. **The main difference between meetings and groups is that A.A. groups generally continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hours, ready to provide Twelfth Step help when needed.**

A.A. groups are encouraged to register with G.S.O., as well as with their local offices: area, district, intergroup or central office. A.A. meetings can be listed in local meeting lists.

How Do You Become an A.A. Group Member?

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.” (Tradition Three) Thus, group membership requires no formal application. Just as we are members of A.A. if we say we are, so are we members of a group if we say we are.

The Difference Between Open and Closed A.A. Meetings

The purpose of all A.A. group meetings, as the Preamble states, is for A.A. members to “share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.” Toward this end, A.A. groups have both open and closed meetings.

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and “have a desire to stop drinking.”

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous’ program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

At both types of meetings, the A.A. chairperson may request that participants confine their discussion to matters pertaining to recovery from alcoholism.

Whether open or closed, A.A. group meetings are conducted by A.A. members who determine the format of their meetings.

Used with Permission P-19 A.A.W.S. Inc.

What is one of the most important things in the meeting rooms?

How we carry the message to the new comer in AA. The meeting schedules let the new comer know where they can find help. I have gone to meetings around the United States. **“We”** are able to find meetings because of the schedules. That tells me that I am not alone where ever I go. However, this is a **“we”** thing and I cannot do anything by myself. **“We”** are updating the meetings. At District and Area levels and will be taking the current information from there. I have tried to fit all the 139 meeting I have on the 8.5 x 14 sheet. Any meetings that would like to be on the schedule or are incorrect. **Please contact the District Secretary, with the corrected information: Time, Date, Meeting Location, Contact person, GSR, & Alt. GSR.** **“We”** will be listing all meeting separate and including Wanders Home Groups, so **“we”** have to call, **“we”** have to make known, **“we”** have to find **“we”** need to carry the AA program and the AA message. For that, I am responsible,

Schedule Makers

Linda Samorez & Rich Vengedna

Heard Around The Tables

District 11's Wisdom and Witticisms

- **"If we put our troubles on the table to exchange with one another -- we'd all take back our own."**
- Perhaps the strangest and most insidious aspect of the disease of alcoholism is its ability to hide itself from the sufferer.
- **Whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our program.**
- I would never trade my wife and children, or the life I have today, for that first drink of alcohol. But I'd do it in a heartbeat for that second drink "
- **Self just can't fix Self.**
- 13 stepping = (Step 1 + Step 12) My life is unmanageable and I want to share it with you.
- **An AA group will be judged by the worst behavior of its members.**
- When we do sense any kind of a rejection in the works, our best course is to let it happen, accept it, and put it behind us.
- **I hit my bottom when I was violating my standards faster than I could lower them.**
- Patience with self is Hope,
- Patience with God is Faith,
- Patience with others is Love.
- **Resentments are:** I didn't get my will yesterday.
Anger is: I didn't get my will today.
Fear is: I'm afraid I won't get my will tomorrow.

On Rule 62....

"When I was sixteen, I was trying to act forty-four, and when I was forty-four, I was trying to act sixteen. I am not sure how, but alcohol made both possible."

I came to a meeting

I came to a meeting, all sad and alone,
So sick and tired, of the life I had known.
Aching and dying, deep down inside,
And feeling the pain, from the things I must hide.

They told me they loved me, and were glad I was there,
Who are these people, and why should they care?
But the more that I listened, the more I could see,
This room full of alcoholics, were all just like me.

I started to share, trying hard not to cry,
And I no longer felt, like I wanted to die.
I wanted to live, but hadn't a clue,
Of what to say, feel, or do.

These people were sober, and would show me the way,
So I listened some more, to what they had to say.
They spoke of a God, and "just for one day,"
So I thought, "What the hell," and I started to pray.

They said "get a sponsor," and "keep coming back".
They said that a program, was all I did lack.
They said "Work the steps, or your going to die".
So I got me a sponsor, and I started to try.

I shared with my sponsor, who I had become,
The people I had hurt, the thing's I had done,
He told me he loved me, and then shared with me,
The thing's he had done, and who he used to be.

That's when I knew, and could finally see,
That if I worked the step's, that I too could be free.
Free from booze, and feeling that way,
Free from obsession, just for today.

So I still try to listen, to what you have to share,
Tell you I Love You, let you know that I care.
Let you know I have found, a much better way,
It's working a program, we call it A.A.

It's sharing my experience, strength, and hope as I
trudge,
It's living a life, and not holding a grudge.
It's sharing with newcomer's, as they wander in,
And as they start to listen, they'll know they can win.

If we all really listen, to what's being said,
The thing's that are shared, the book that is read.
If we listen and learn, we will surely see,
How truly delightful sobriety can be.

Author Anonymous

19th Annual McHenry Soberfest FunRaiser

We stood at the turning point



19th Annual McHenry Soberfest 2008

SATURDAY MAY 10, 2008

Doors Open at 6:00pm
AA Speaker at 7:00pm

“J.R.”

from **Genoa City, WI**

McHenry Township Hall
3703 N. Richmond Rd.
Johnsburg, Illinois

Tickets \$4.00 in Advance; \$5.00 at the Door
Food, Fun & Fellowship

INFO: Kathy 847/910-4346 or Dale 815/648-2817
Or contact us at: www.soberfest.org

Saturday April 12th

District 11 & the
Monday Night Richmond
Group presents

Sponsorship Workshop

McHenry Township
Senior Center
3519 N. Richmond Rd.
(West of Rt. 31 & Johnsborg Rd.)
(West Of The Moose)
McHenry, IL.

Doors Open at 4: 00 PM
Workshop Starts at 5:00 PM
Will End by 9:00 PM

**An Open
Event ~
Bring Your Big
Book**

**BBQ Pork &
Hot Dogs
(Donations
Accepted)**

*The format will be panels with a guide from the
Big Book text, which refers to carrying the A.A.*

message; provided to attendees.

Contacts: Sue V.: 815-861-4812 or
David G.: 815-344-6523