

INTO ACTION

THE PURSUIT OF SOBRIETY WE RECOVER BY THE STEPS WE TAKE NOT THE MEETINGS WE MAKE

Alcoholics Anonymous is for alcoholics who want to stop drinking, start living and enjoy being alive. But, A.A. has two elements; (1) the Fellowship and (2) the Program. The Fellowship of A.A. is comprised of the individuals who make up the groups. Some have recovered from Alcoholism and some have not. Recovery occurs as the result of

following a Program of program of Anonymous book Anonymous. Book, the members of Anonymous called the states that



precise action. This Alcoholics is stated in the Alcoholics Page 17 of this basic text for Alcoholics and lovingly Big Book, almost all who

have followed the Program have recovered.

It further states that the Fellowship (making meetings and hanging out in A.A. is good and important, but that will not produce recovery. Recovery is the product of taking the Program of action, the Steps as they are outlined in the Big Book and is absolutely necessary if you are to survive alcoholism.

Today, a person with a drinking problem will have little trouble finding the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous wherever they may be in this world. Unfortunately though, they will probably have a difficult time finding the Program, and therefore will have little chance of finding lasting sobriety. The reason is quite simple; many A.A. groups today are made up of folks who are confused as to why the group exists and have little if any knowledge of the program, i.e. the problem (alcoholism), the solution (God as we understand Him) nor the practical Program of action (Steps 3-12) which assures recovery.

(Continued on Page 2)

(PURSUIT - Continued from the Front Page)

Search for a group that is focused on the solution. They will have Big Book study meetings, speaker meetings and Tradition study meetings. The members of such a group will be alcoholics who are recovering (taking the Steps) or have recovered (have taken and continue to live by our Steps). For the person who is sincere in their desire to stop drinking for good and all, there are three things, which are absolutely essential:

1. A sobriety date which is the day you had your last drink or the first day you went without taking a drink, or for that matter, you did not sniff, snort, shoot, pop, drop, smoke or huff anything other than Tang, orange juice and honey, soda pop, coffee or cigarettes.
2. A Big Book.
3. A complete willingness to follow the directions in the Big Book.

A very desirable fourth thing is a sponsor who lives our Program by the Big Book. These, unfortunately, are no longer easy to find.

First, let's make certain that we understand the requirement for membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. Very simply it is a desire, yearning, longing to quit drinking for good and for all. It is neither and anything nor or anything; just an honest desire to never take another drink. That is stated on page XIV of the Big Book and by our Third Tradition (The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking). All of us have problems other than drinking, but drinking is our only common problem.

Second, let's make certain that we understand the purpose of the basic text (page xi), Alcoholics Anonymous. To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book (page XIII). This Book contains all the experience and knowledge an alcoholic will ever require to recover from alcoholism.

Third, let's make certain that we understand that we are talking about complete willingness (page 12) to go to any length for emotional sobriety—by taking and living by the Steps. Learning to live by our Steps is not optional, it is mandatory for permanent sobriety.

Fourth, you will normally find a sponsor in the A.A. group you decide to call your home group. So, let's make certain that you understand the responsibility of a sponsor. A sponsor's job is simply to help you take the Steps according to the clear-cut directions that came with the Steps so you can experience the happiness and peace of mind that comes with recovery. If your sponsor does not start you in the Big Book, you have made a bad choice in who you are betting your life on. Since your life depends on what you do, don't be bashful about finding someone who will help you experience what our founders experienced. To get what they got, we must do what they did. They wrote the book Alcoholics Anonymous to assure that we would have the opportunity to experience the promises of our Program.

We all paid a hell of a price to get here, let's be willing to pay a less demanding price to stay here; by following the directions in the Big Book!

And finally, let's make certain that we understand the purpose of an A.A. group. The primary purpose of an A.A. group is to help the suffering alcoholic understand what alcoholism is, what the solution to alcoholism is and what the practical Program of action is that promises recovery from alcoholism. On page 58 of the Big Book, the first one hundred tell us how the Steps work when they write, Rarely have we seen a person fail (to find both physical and emotional sobriety) who has thoroughly followed our path (the clear-cut directions in the Big Book). Our primary purpose is also stated on pages XIII, 17, 20, 29, 45, 84-85, 89 and elsewhere in the Big Book. Our Fifth Traditions states, each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

(Continued on page 9)

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.

INTOAction: District 11's Newsletter

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MEETINGS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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.

OPEN MEETINGS are meetings available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism.

CLOSED MEETINGS are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." Most meetings have *CLOSED* meeting schedules available.

A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole. 12X12 Pg. 15

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 your 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

Used with permission: P-16; A.A.W.S. Inc.

SCHEDULE INFO CHANGES MUST GO THROUGH DISTRICT 11'S SECRETARY



ADDRESSES FOR GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

(Updated 5/20/08)

Help: completing all information speeds processing and insures groups' recognition. Our 7th Tradition limits donations to fellowship members, meetings and groups.

Our 7th Tradition Gratitude Contribution of

\$_____ is enclosed.

From Group (name)_____

Group #:_____

Dist. #:_____

Meeting City:_____

Mail to:

**Northern Illinois District Eleven
P.O. Box 846
McHenry, IL 60051-0846**

**N.I.A. Treasurer
Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.
P.O. Box 246
Bourbonnais, IL 60914-0246**

**The General Service Office
AAWS
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459**

If you need a receipt include your information

DCM Report – 6/5/08 Submitted by Dan Michel

(Updated by Editor After the Meeting)

Hello Everyone,

I don't have a lot to say with this report. We are hosting a Delegate report session August 9th at the Huntley Recreation Center starting at 9 AM. There are many AA events over the summer - too many to enumerate here. Please read the District newsletter *Into Action* for summer events. Remember to contact the newsletter chair with event Information or just to submit thoughts about recovery. I know he is always looking for news and views to report.

The location for our District meeting has to be secured by July 1. Unless there is a change decided upon tonight, we will definitely be at the same location for 2009. Anyone that wants to research other facilities now has one year to complete their research and report back to the business meeting.

I want to thank everyone for their dedication to AA service work. The people involved in service work here in District 11 are doing an excellent job. New involvement in the Grapevine and in Hospital & Treatment committees is encouraging to the general health of AA in McHenry County. The Corrections and the Answering Service Committees continue to be among the best in the state of Illinois, in my opinion. The Newsletter is a wonderful tool for recovery provided by District 11 trusted servants, as is the District 11 Meeting Directory (available on-line at www.dist11-aa-nia.org thanks to our Webmaster).

The Archives is old news. Just a little humor Steve! Our Archivist has collected historical AA gems from McHenry County. If you have not seen his displays, you really need to attend Soberfest or the Old Timers Brunch. I want to thank Dan for his service as District Secretary. Although his business commitments prevent him from continuing as Secretary, his service is appreciated. Rachel has filled in for him very well when needed, and is a very able replacement as new District Secretary if she is willing to do it (I haven't asked her yet).

If you don't know already, former District 11 Alternate Treasurer and GSR for the Design for Living group has passed away since our last meeting. He will be missed by all who knew him. He provided much service work in AA in the almost 3 years he was sober.

Please remember to attend the NIA Summer Assembly on Saturday June 21. See you there! God bless you all and thank you.

Dan Michel - DCM District 11

Up-dated by Editor 6/5/08: Rachel Guest was voted in as District 11 Secretary; Linda Leaf was voted in as Alternate Treasurer; and John Scandiff was voted in as Alternate Hospital/Treatment Chair. **Congrats and Thanks.

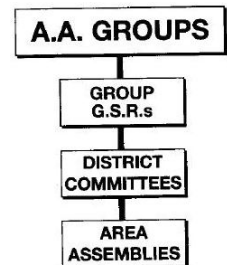
CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT 11: JANUARY-APRIL 03, 2008

Date	Group	Amount
1/1/08	MAC	\$75.00
1/3/08	Winner & Beginners	\$250.47
1/3/08	12 & 12 Friday Huntley	\$50.00
1/3/08	Tues Big Book/Grapevine	\$35.60
1/4/08	Wonder Lake Thursday AM	\$250.00
1/6/08	Thurs night St. Paul's	\$120.00
1/6/08	Monday Night Group	\$120.00
1/11/08	Woodstock	\$207.60
1/11/08	Tues & Thurs Island Lake	\$100.00
1/16/08	Sunday Morning Serenity Group	\$60.00
1/20/08	Sunday Closed Discussion Noon	\$25.00
1/20/08	Sunday Night Big Book	\$78.00
1/22/08	Wednesday Discussion & Gratitude	\$100.00
1/22/08	Monday Night Cary	\$60.00
1/31/08	Friday 12 & 12	\$50.00
Date	Group	Amount
2/6/08	In memory of Thomas Slad	\$10.00
2/8/08	In memory of Thomas Slad	\$40.00
2/12/08	Wednesday 1 PM Discussion & Gratitude	\$100.00
2/18/08	Wanderers #112 Algonquin	\$40.00
2/22/08	Friday 12 & 12	\$30.00
Date	Group	Amount
3/1/08	Sobriety & Beyond Crystal Lake	\$240.00
3/3/08	Monday Happy Hour MAC	\$180.00
3/4/08	Attitude Adjustment	\$1200.00
3/8/08	Old Timer's Brunch	\$792.68
3/15/08	Living Sober Group	\$72.00
3/16/08	Sunday Big Book	\$60.00
3/16/08	Group # 672747	
3/21/08	Freedom Farm Campfire	\$60.00
3/24/08	Saturday Night Speaker's Choice	\$120.00
3/27/08	Sunday AM Big Book Study McHenry VFW	\$120.00
3/31/08	Monday 1 PM Big Book Huntley	\$50.00
Date	Group	Amount
12/27/07	Group #672747	\$65.00
12/31/07	McHenry Soberfest	\$75.13
4/1/08	Friday 12 & 12	\$50.00
4/2/08	10 AM Serenity Group	\$150.00
4/3/08	Monday Night Cary	\$60.00

Thank You.



Thank You.



The June Treasurer Report will contain contributions from 2nd half of April and 1st half of May. Books are closed at mid-month. All contributions posted here are based on information that is in the Treasurer Report given at the District 11 business meetings.

Monthly Meeting Minutes for District 11 May 1st, 2008

(Editors Note: Dates and times contained in the following are a reflection from the minutes taken on May 1st, not the date of this publication.)

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM
Attendance: 34
Committee Members: 13
Groups Represented: 22

Anniversaries: Rick- 6 months. David- 5 years!
CONGRATULATIONS ON ALL
ANNIVERSARIES!!!!

Secretary's Report: *Rachael G.*

- Written committee reports must be submitted to secretary to be included in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: *Lynn B.*

Beginning Balance	\$4,169.35
Expenses	\$ 927.39
Income	<u>\$1,178.38</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,375.25

Old Business:

- We must make a decision by June whether or not to sign another six-month commitment to our current meeting location. If you *have researched* a facility for future district meetings, please bring your motion before the next committee meeting for discussion and vote.
- The Alternate Treasurer position is open.
- The Alternate Hospitals and Treatment Chair is open.



New Business:

- Motion (Lynn) to allot \$1,500.00 for the Schedulemaker to print approximately 20,000 copies. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- Motion (Craig) to allot \$300.00 to Workshop Committee to be used as seed money for future workshops. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- Motion (Lynn) to allot \$1,000.00 to the LCM Committee for 2008. Motion seconded. Motion passed.
- NIA has donated us \$250 with which to hold a Delegate Report Workshop in June or July.
- Cheryl asked the group to determine if she is permitted to use money in her corrections budget for uses outside of District 11, namely purchasing big books for a downstate prison.

Corrections: *Cheryl M.*

- Attended two corrections events and finding other ways to be of service in District 11 as corrections chair. Could the GSR's take a vote at their groups to send big books to Southern Illinois?



Answering Service: *Tom F. & Jim M.*

- Total calls—150; **Meeting information—73**; Open meeting info—5; Hang-up—27; Wrong number—4; Refused to give call back number—8; NA/CA—0; **Needs help call out—8**; Al-anon—4; Out of district—8; Treatment info—0; ACOA—17; Spanish info—2; Needs ride—1.
- Also put our number on the national "Do Not Call" List.

(Continued on the next page)

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Newsletter: *David G. (Up-dated by editor)*

- **Deadline for the Aug/Sept issue is July 26th.**
- Share your committee's experience, strength, and hope or your personal thought in the newsletter by emailing David G. at soulsurgery@comcast.net
- All AA Event Information E-mail to Tim Boutin @ timb95@aol.com

Workshop: *Craig C.*

- Workshop was a great success. We had 80 people attend; kept to our schedule; do not know financial status- Sue can report on that. We gave away four Grapevine subscriptions at a cost of \$60.

Webmaster: *Frank S.—NO REPORT.*

Grapevine: *Steve Lucas (alt)*

- Literature was ordered as discussed last meeting. It has not been received yet.

Hospitals & Treatment: *Mike R.*

- We had great feedback on Friday at Southstreet BTG meeting. They needed literature and we ordered some. Could use donated BB's. Worked on District guidelines for H/TC. Working on BTG info and ordered literature. There was one BTG call.
- Jim has stepped down as alternate Hospitals and Treatment Chair.
- I was at assembly.



Public Information: *Brandon L.*

- PI committee sent emails to all libraries in District 11 offering to provide them with 4th edition Big Book, English 12x12s, Spanish Big Books, or Spanish 12x12s. There are 13 libraries in Dist. 11. We have received a response from six of them requesting various literature. We will follow up with the remaining libraries in the next week and place a literature order for the requested literature.
- I hope to have the literature to the libraries in the next month.

Special Needs: *Dave S.*

- I anticipate a trip to Bill Reese's during May, as I hear more "go-ahead" from Dean (who visits him regularly)

(Inserted by Editor —Bill Reese departed this life on May 15, 2008 – Peace and Comfort to his family & friends.)

LCM Report: *Linda S.*

- Went to 33 meetings last month; Edited schedule with new and corrected information.
- Gave out Group change forms to make changes when necessary.
- Gathering more committee member volunteers.
- Printed 5,000 new schedules.
- Gave previous years' schedules to archives.
- Made a book of all the meetings and will bring to each Dist meeting.
- E-mailed Frank—schedule to be put on dist website.

(Continued on the next page)

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Upcoming Events: *(Notes from May 1st Minutes)*

- NIA Committee Meeting May 10th
@ Lord of Life Church, LaFox, IL.

- 19th Annual McHenry's Soberfest
Funraiser and Dance. McHenry
Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond
Rd. in Johnsburg. Saturday, May
10th. Doors @ 6pm, Speaker (J.R. C.)
at 7pm. Raffles and dance to follow.
Note from Ed. Great Turn out
and Great Fun and Fellowship –
Thanks to All.

- **Friends of Bill W steak fry.**
Harvard Moose Shelter, Rte 173
one mile west of Rte 14 in
Harvard. June 14th.
Speaker: Joe H.

- **NIA Summer Assembly June 21st,**
Lord of Life Church, LaFox, IL.

- **Soberfest Al-Anon Funraiser.**
McHenry Township Hall in
Johnsburg, Illinois. Saturday
August 2nd.



Open Mic:

- *Dean- The 2008 Illinois State Conference
will be September 5-7. Please support!*
(UPDATED BY EDITOR) ↓
- ****The next district meeting will be held
Thursday, July 3rd, 2008******

*Respectfully Submitted, Rachael Guest – Alt.
Recording Secretary*



**EIGHTH ANNUAL
MIDWEST MOTORCYCLE
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
CONVENTION**

Emerald Acres Campground
Pearl City, Illinois

JUNE 20TH–22ND

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Otto M. of Plano, TX
Rick C. of Muscatine, IA
Tim H. of Louisville, KY
Lilly H. of Portland, ME

INFO: Dave S. - 815-703-6070
Tracey O. - 815-988-8699



www.mmaac.org

Full Flyer Link:

<http://www.aa-nia.org/pdf/events/MMAAC%20Flyer.pdf>

(PURSUIT - Continued from page 2)

A healthy group is one where its members honor our Twelve Traditions and live by our Twelve Steps.

Unfortunately, the members of many groups today ignore both the Steps and Traditions, and as a result, they are more concerned with generating enough income to pay the rent than they are with trying to help the newcomer. Groups that ignore the Twelve Traditions ultimately find themselves in trouble and will fail.

One of the misleading thoughts a newcomer might develop is the idea that if s/he is not drinking, they have recovered. Not so!

There are 2 types of sobriety:

1. Physical sobriety—this is just not drinking. Often the first few days or weeks of not finding it necessary to drink will produce a sort of euphoria. We call this a pink cloud. There is the mistaken idea that we have found recovery. After the pink cloud period, we become restless, irritable and/or discontented and then we return to drinking. In our basic textbook Alcoholics Anonymous there is very little reference to not drinking although to not drink is the only requirement for membership. It is the ticket to the game, but just not drinking is certainly not the game.

2. Emotional sobriety—this is defined as, to know peace and comprehend the word serenity. The emphasis of the A.A. program is to be able to enjoy life without drinking. To provide us with a program to live by. To enable us to live with peace of mind, freedom, happiness, a real purpose and serenity. This is the game and the book Alcoholics Anonymous gives us the clear-cut directions on how to play the game. The attainment of emotional sobriety through living by the Steps is recovery.

There is a great deal of ignorance and misunderstanding within the Fellowship of A.A. today as to what is Program and what is not Program. On page 59 of the Big Book, you will find the following:

Here are the Steps we took, which are suggested as a Program of recovery. It does not say: Here are the meetings we went to, nor does it say: Here are The Steps we talked about and discussed.

It says: took which implies action (page 63). The clear-cut directions for taking the Steps can be found only in our basic textbook. That is exactly why the founders of our Program went to the trouble of writing and printing the Big Book. To keep their message from being garbled. More often than not, the newcomer is told: don't drink and go to meetings or worse yet Go to ninety meetings in ninety days. You will not find either of these suggestions in the Big Book nor in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (the 12 and 12). If you rely on meetings for your recovery, you will very likely find only a short term of physical sobriety and because you continue to have a case of untreated alcoholism, will return to drinking. Recovery happens only as the result of taking and living by our Steps.

(PURSUIT – Continued of page 12)

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR PEOPLE: EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY, AND NOBODY.

THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO BE DONE AND EVERYBODY WAS ASKED TO DO IT.

EVERYBODY WAS SURE SOMEBODY WOULD DO IT.

ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT, BUT NOBODY DID IT.

SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT BECAUSE IT WAS EVERYBODY'S JOB.

EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD DO IT, BUT NOBODY REALIZED THAT EVERYBODY WOULDN'T DO IT.

IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED SOMEBODY WHEN ACTUALLY NOBODY ASKED ANYBODY. NOBODY ENDED UP DOING IT.

N.I.A. 20 ~ Summer Assembly/Post-GSC

Panel 58 Delegate

Report

Jun 21st

Reg: 8AM
Mtg: 9AM
LUNCH \$\$

Lord of Life Church,

La Fox, Il.

Rt.38/LaFox Rd

Host-District 61

John P. 630-338-7703

Beginnings of AA in McHenry County

In 1948, in Wauconda, in a very tiny Insurance Company Office with one couch, an AA meeting started. People would sit on the floor and would have to contend with rats running around. In that, same year a meeting was held, in a Church in Crystal Lake.

In About 1950, the Wauconda meeting moved to Island Lake in a slightly bigger Insurance Building. Somewhere between 1953 & 1955, this meeting moved once more. To the present location at the Butron's Bridge Community Center Building. At First, they met on Fridays, and then they had to change to Thursday Nights, because the Community Center was needed for Bingo on Friday Nights. Joe C. was the man responsible for the move to Burtons Bridge.

One of our members, George of Burtons Bridge, stated that he thought that the Wauconda and Crystal Lake meetings in 1948 were the oldest meetings in the State. →

The next oldest meeting, we gathered information on would be the meeting in Wonder Lake Which now meets on Wednesday nights at Nativity Lutheran Church. One of our members, Emma W., told me that this meeting started on 2nd Wednesday July, 1954 in a building on Hancock Dr. near the Lake, that later was turned into a tavern. When the Christ the King Catholic Church was Built in 1958, the Meeting was moved there.

The AA members who started this meeting were a married couple named Stan & Una, they would put on a pot of coffee and wait for others to show up, sometimes no one did show up, but nothing stopped them from continuing. The doors would be locked promptly at 8:30PM to insure privacy. A member named Carl F., liked the pastor at Nativity Lutheran Church so they moved the meeting there in 1972 and met on Tuesday nights.

I have been told that bus loads of sailors from Great Lakes would come to that meeting at one time, they also had Al-anon meetings upstairs at nativity on the same night. Then on November 5th, 1980 the meeting was changed back to Wednesday Nights. At that time, the meeting changed to a step meeting, reading a step a week out of the 12X12 book. Then discussing the step, after we get to the 12th step the next meeting, we read and discuss 2 traditions at a time. Before the meeting changed to steps it was a speaker's choice meeting.

The Monday night meeting at the United Methodist Church started January 14, 1974. The AA members what started were Paul & Emma W.; Joanie A. & Jackie C.. The Big Book – 12&12 Book & a 24 hour book was presented to them from the Burtons Bridge Group. Emma W. told me that meetings in McHenry AA Area started in homes and were called Prayer meetings to protect anonymity .

We were called district 1-A until fall of 1982, when it was changed to be called District 11 .

Submitted by
Dolores M.

Heard Around The Tables

District 11's Wisdom and Witticisms

- Contentment: is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.
- Although I might have argued the point at the time, I've discovered that I didn't know why I was drinking until I stopped drinking and worked the steps.
- I have a change in attitude when rather than thinking about 'how bad I've got it,' I give thanks for how great I have it!
- Someone else's procrastination does not make it my urgent matter.
- Overheard Sponsor to Sponsee:
"Honey, even GOD can't steer a parked car! Put it in gear and start down the road . . . just try not to hit anyone or run anyone over!"
- When the pain of remaining the same is greater than the pain of change, we change (or we drink).
- Pain is not the absence of spirituality. It is your better self trying to get out!"
- I'm not judging, I'm just seeing.
- Faith isn't faith, till it's all you're hanging on to!
- Wisdom is knowing the right path to take.
Integrity is taking it.

Trippin' Over Your Tongue?

A short collection of tongue twisters
heard at meetings.

"Rarely have we seen a person in jail who has thoroughly followed our path" (BB, Ch 5)

"What! An Order? I can't go through with it!"
(BB, Ch 5)

Step One: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our wives had become unmanageable"

Step Four: "Made a screeching and thorough moral inventory of ourselves"

Clarity

Priorities need to be met Everyday
One can't rest on Laurels of Yesterday-
Plant the Desire of Willingness to Gain
To Walk Thru the fear, Doubt and Pain-
Bad Behaviors and Attitudes led me Astray
Lost days of Gratitude Stagnant and Gray-
Afraid to be me, and what I might see
Choosing bondage over being Free-

Keeping Life at arms length, at any cost
The check in the end was Isolation and Loss-
Tears in the nite. fearing Daylight
What could I do, to make me Alright-
Too many questions, not enough Prayers
Where were the answers, I dare not look there-
Then Deep Down Inside, Shined
a Glimmer of Hope
Whispering out, I just need to Cope-
And from Within, came the Courage to Begin,
A Life unknown, called the Spiritual Zone-
Substance Free, and able to see
Deep in my soul, I found me-

Abandoned from Guilt Remorse and Shame
With nothing to lose, Only myself to Gain-
Reaching up High, From Down on my knees
I Surrendered to God and He Helped me-
He'll Show me the way, If I stay by His Side-
One Day at a Time, Sobriety is mine
I have the Gift, that I want to Share,
You'll need to Believe with your Heart
"If You Dare"

Written and Submitted by,
Cindy R.



Northern IL. Area 20
15th Annual
BIG BOOK CONFERENCE
Hosted by District 52
NOVEMBER 1, 2008

"THERE IS A SOLUTION"
8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Manteno Church
Of The Nazarene
698 N. Locust (Rt. 50) Manteno, IL.
(Exit 322 on I57)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Dr. Burns B.
BIG BOOK SPEAKER – Ron S. – Joliet

Restaurants within walking Distance

Registration Fee: \$10.00 (Make
checks Payable to Area 20 Big
Book Conference)

SEND →

Name: Address: E-mail Address:

LUNCH \$5.00 YES___ NO___ TO →
P.O. BOX 265, Bradley, Il. 60915

CONTACTS: Brian L. 815-686-5283
Or Russ K. 815-401-2244

(PURSUIT - *Continued from page 9*)

Often the newcomer is told to get a copy of the 12 and 12 as a beginning text. This is bad advice. Your study of the 12 and 12 should come only after you have experienced the Steps as the result of following the directions in the Big Book. The 12 and 12 is a great book. When you begin your study of this book, be sure to carefully read the Forward. Bill W. (author of both the Big Book and the 12 and 12) states that the 12 and 12 is a series of essays, not clear-cut directions, on our Steps and Traditions (pg. 15). On pg. 17, Bill states that the Big Book was and still is the basic text for Alcoholics Anonymous. Anyone who can read and understand the English language must know that basic text is the first book to study and from which we gain knowledge.

The Big Book is the combined experience and knowledge of more than 100 men and women that has survived the test of time since 1939. Once we have experienced the results of the Steps, as they were given us by the first 100, we can and should go to other books to learn how to further develop our spiritual being (page 87). The 12 and 12 is a great second book but it certainly is not the first and Bill W. said so....

An excerpt by Cliff B.,
Primary Purpose Group,
Dallas, Texas

**The Children Say What
A.A. Means to Them
A.A. Showed My Father the
Door to Maturity. . .**

Six years ago my father called my brother and me into the living room to give us one of his few and scattered "lectures." However, the contents of his dreaded speech were far from what we expected. They were, in fact, a confession and a pledge to us. While we sat there in silence, he told us how selfish he had been in using liquor to such an extreme that he had hurt his family and his friends.

(Continued of page 13)

10th Annual Friends of Bill W. Steak Fry

**Saturday
June 14th**

**Harvard Moose Shelter
Rt. 173**

(1 Mile West of 14)

Harvard

Softball Games Starting at Noon,
Horseshoes, Volleyball,

➤ A Family Event

\$2 for Hot Dog Plate for Kids

Steaks served from 3 - 5:30 PM

Open Speaker at 6:00 PM

KATHY G.

Tickets \$10 for Steak Dinner

**Tickets Must be purchased by
June 9, 2008**

Call Rich B. 815-579-3508 or
Marc H. 815-236-4741

CHILDREN- (Continued from page 12)

Then he promised us that he would never drink again, and he has kept his word. At the time I was too young to understand the whole significance of what my father had done, but I did know that his growing "weakness" had made me and the rest of my family unhappy. I was at the age when my environment made deep impressions with little meaning, and I felt, though I did not know why, that my father had just defeated a cancerous evil in himself which, had it not been defeated, would eventually have been disastrous to the entire family.

As the years went by, I began to understand the meaning of my father's victory more and more. Actually, he was growing up with me, and as a result of this we could talk to each other with ease. He told me of the strength in faith, the power in humility, and the happiness in helping others. As I was growing up with him, likewise he was growing up with that which had shown him the door to maturity--Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today I believe that I understand the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and I also believe that through it I have received great values. I have often regretted that other boys of my age could not be exposed to this movement as I have.

It seems to me that, if this were possible, they could not only keep themselves safe from alcoholism but that they could also find in A.A. a finer understanding of life itself that would enable them to live it more fully.

Bert T.'s 18-year-old son, Alan

Grapevine: December 1944; Vol. 1 No. 7



2010 Savings Plan.

See Tony H. just before the Design For Living Group Meeting: On Wednesdays; Meeting Begins @7 PM; Tony is there at 6:15; McHenry Township Building

What do you do when someone just won't Work the Steps?

Spoken by Bob D.: Transcribed by dg from: the "Big Book Workshop Disc Set; Bob D. & Scott L.; Disc 10/12, Tracks 14-15

Some of you aren't going to like this; but I'm going to back it up in the book. I drop them.

I tell them – and Mike Coop was my sponsor, I called him one time; I was sober 5 years, I said, "Mike I got a question about this guy...what should I...He said, "I want you to drop that guy.

I said, "Come-on Mike, I'm serious. He said, "I'm serious", I'd rather have you on the gold course. It'd be better for your program. I said, "I don't get it Mike."

He said, "What are you asking him to do that he isn't doing?" I said, "Well, Start his 4th Step, go to a meeting every day, call his parole officer, look for a job, and open and close his days following the directions of the 11th step. He said, "And how many of that is he doing?" I said, "He's not doing any of it."

He said, "You are not his sponsor, he is! You are his Fire Chief, and when his tail feathers are ablaze he siphons off some of your serenity and he puts out his fire and goes right back to doing it his way and you're not helping him. You're cosigning a lie. He said, "Could you stay sober on the program he's working? I said no. He said, "Can he? I said, "I don't think so."

He said, "You are probably right and when he drinks again I want you to be able to sleep; because you told him the truth. Because when he drinks again he may well kill someone or himself or go to prison for a long time and you're going to have to sleep because you told him the truth. →

He's in the fellowship of AA but he's not in The Program.

Then he said, "How do you feel when you work with him?" I said, "I feel like I've been rung out; I'm tired, I hate it when he calls. He said, "How do you feel when you work with Bill K.?"

I said, "Jēese, It lights me up like a pinball machine. Really! Mike said. "And what are you asking Bill to do that he not doing?"

"Oh, he's doing it all, REALLY!" I said.

He said, "You can tell whether sponsorship is working for you and for him by how you feel. Not every once in a while, but consistently, How do you feel when you work with this person? Cause if you're dragging one, it wares you out. If they're doing the deal it lights you both up.

Sponsorship is always a two-way street; if it's working for one it's working for the other; if it's not working for one it's not working for the other. And he said, "You must go and drop him." (By the way, before you come and disagree with me please read the middle paragraph on page 95 to the top paragraph at the page of 96. I happen to know where that one is, I'm not going to it, but don't come argue with me until you have read them please. Because that is exactly what the Book says to do.)

There are a couple of reason; One, I don't want to cosign a lie. The second one is that I'm too valuable. I'm too valuable. I can't be dragging somebody and what it takes out of me, when I can be helping somebody that really wants to do the deal. I just can't.

The other reason is also for him. And that is, the next time he wakes up in a jail cell in a pool of his own blood I want him to have three options.

(Continued on page15)

(Continued from page 14)

And the options are:

To continue to live that way, to commit suicide, or to try Alcoholics Anonymous Program knowing he hasn't tried it because I told him the truth. If I don't tell him the truth I have signed his death warrant. I have killed him. If he will not do these steps I can't help him. I'm a one trick pony; holy mackerel it's a fabulous trick, but I just got the one.

I just got the one and I don't allow the men that I sponsor to work with men that won't do what hey ask. We're not going to run any ones life, we're going to run their Program of Recovery. I'm gentle, I really am; I don't have that reputation but I am. The guys that I have sponsored for any length of time will tell you that.

I mean, if your Bosses are coming into town and you're going to have breakfast at 6:30 and go through a "three-forker" every night for five days in a row and you can't work on your 4th Step, I agree with you, I don't think you can either. Take a week off. I'm easy on that; but only on the front end. Don't call me later and tell me why you couldn't; tell me on the front end. That's all that I ask. But we're not helping them, if we're cosigning a lie.

Let somebody hang around this fellowship, and bet his life on it, he's going to sitting in bars later. If I've dropped him, if I've told him, "You won't let me sponsor you through the work and it's the only hope that I think you've got, I hope what your doing is working." "I hope it works for you I really do." "I'll be here when you get back if it doesn't."

He can go sit in the bars and tell people that he tried AA and it didn't work, but he'll know it isn't true.

Knowledge is a terrible thing; once you've got it you can't put it back. There is no way to go back to, "not knowing something". And once he knows that, he'll know that was a lie for the rest of his life

Spoken by Bob D. Transcribed by dg from: the "Big Book Workshop Disc Set; Bob D. and Scott L., Disc 10/12, Tracks 14-15

September 5-7

35th Annual

**"Communication
And Participation
The Key to Unity
& Self-Support"**



SPEAKERS

Friday Evening

David S.; South Carolina -AA

Sat. Afternoon

Jessie W.; Schaumburg, IL-AFG

Sat. Evening

**Frank J.; Sherman Oaks, CA-AA
Banquet & Dance**

Sunday Morning

GSO Speaker

**Alcathons*Panels*Al-anon*
Hospitality Room*Archives
Literature*Childcare**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel*\$119./nt
Chicago O'Hare**

**5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont
1-800-465-4329**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

llstateconference2008@gmail.com

Raymond H. 773-375-1062

George K. 773-218-5512

2008 Illinois State Conference

June - September 008 Events

06/14

NIA Delegate's Report – 6:00 pm, Pizza provided, bring a desert to pass, St. Peter Damian Church Chapel, 109 South Crest Avenue, Bartlett, IL 60103, Dawn 630 484 4048

06/14

10th Annual Friends of Bill W Steak Fry Harvard Moose Shelter Rt 173 1 Mile West of 14, Harvard Steaks served from 3 - 5:30 PM
Open Speaker at 6 Tickets \$10 for Steak Dinner \$2 for Hot Dog Plate for Kids Tickets Must be purchased by June 9, 2008
Call Rich B 815-579-3508 or Marc H 815-236-4741

06/14

WI District 28 2008 Mini-Conference, Serenity Club, 3677 E Pulaski, Cudahy, WI (just S of Milwaukee), Peter 414-769-9550

06/20-22

8th Annual Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention, Emerald Acres Campground, Pearl City, IL, www.MMAAC.org

06/21

NIA Summer Assembly/Post-GSC Panel 58 Delegate Report, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, 227 East Side Drive, Geneva, IL, Hosted by Dist. 61, Jeff 630-292-3727

06/21

13th Annual Wisconsin/UP Michigan Corrections Conference, Serenity Club, 3677 E Pulaski, Cudahy, WI (just S of Milwaukee), Marty 414-527-2179

06/22

District 12 2008 Summer Bash, Greenbelt Forest Preserve, Shelter A.1215 Green Bay Rd., North Chicago, IL, Susan 847-502-1007

06/28

Corrections Workshop hosted by Districts 90 & 91, The Henry County Group, 110 W 1st St, Kewanee, IL, Pat 309-337-8219

06/28

Post General Service Conference Report and Dinner Dance, Report & food 4:00-7:00, Dancing 7:00 on, Kankakee Alano Club, 1245 E River Street, Kankakee, IL , Heather 815-468-7890

07/3-6

50th Annual ICYPAA, Renaissance Marriott, 10 N Broadway, Oklahoma City, OK, 405-228-8000, www.50THICYPAA.ORG

07/20

District 40 Picnic, Churchill Woods Forest Preserve, Glen Ellyn, IL, off St. Charles W of Rte. 53, Kelly 630-510-3069

07/25-27

28th East Central Region Conference, Holiday Inn Cleveland West, 1100 Crocker Rd, Westlake, OH, John 815-307-8169

08/02

Soberfest Al-Anon Fundraiser, McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N Richmond Rd (Rte 31), Johnsburg, IL, Contact Deb at 815-653-3508 Janet 847-973-0752

08/02

Summer Committee Meeting, Lord of Life Church, SE corner Rte. 38 & La Fox Rd, La Fox, IL, Hosted by Dist. 90, Pat 309-344-0327

08/10

District 43 Annual Picnic, Noon to 4:00 pm, Blackwell Forest Preserve, off Butterfield Rd west of Winfield Rd, Warrenville, IL,

George 630-244-5520

08/24

District 52 Fellowship Day & Golf Outing, Shamrock Golf Course, 6575 East State Route 17, Saint Anne, IL 60964, Joe 815-939-4044

09/05-07

35th Illinois State Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel Chicago O'Hare, 5440 N River Rd., Rosemont, IL, Raymond H. 773-375-1062 George K. 773-218-5512 ilstateconference2008@gmail.com

09/13

NIA Fall Assembly, Bethel Baptist Church, 1196 N Academy St, Galesburg, IL, Hosted by Dist. 91, Pat 309-344-0327

09/14

911 Feed Your Face Occurrence, 11:00 am till ??, Perry Farm, 459 Kennedy Dr, Bourbonnais IL, Frank 815-939-2763

09/20

All Chicago Open, UIC Pavilion, Racine & Harrison, Chicago, IL. Open 6:00 pm, meeting 8:00 pm, Rose 630-726-4447

Forward Your AA Events and Functions to Tim Boutin: <timb95@aol.com>