



Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10.

Vol. 15 No. 8
August 2016

- Next deadline:
August 23
- Next District Mtg.:
August 28

www.district10nia.org
www.aa-nia.org
www.aa.org

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“I am responsible . . .
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

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Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the thinking of Alcoholics Anonymous, NIA, District 10 or the Conscious Contact volunteers.

2016 Illinois State Conference & East Central Regional Conference

(Hosted by NIA Area 20 Districts 10, 11, and 28)

Our Real Purpose...

August 12-14th– 2016

AA Speakers: Madeline P. of Happy Valley, Oregon

Laurie H. of Oak Lawn, Il.

Workshops-Alcathons-Panels-Dance-Fellowship-FUN!

Register online: <http://www.aailcon.org>

Or contact Dana T.: 847-322-5256

Pheasant Run Resort 4051 E. Main St.

St. Charles Il. 630-584-6300

Mention conference when reserving room to get the \$109.00 rate per night.

LOTS of Volunteers are needed for being a Greeter, leading an Alcathon meeting, or the Hospitality Room. You can sign up on line in the Volunteer section of the website. Come have some FUN!

Come CELEBRATE A Way Out 16th Anniversary!

September 24th– 6:00 p.m. Speaker at 7:00 p.m.

Libertyville Civic Center (135 W. Church St). Free event.

Fellowship/Food/Refreshments served at 6 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Speaker: Line G. –Escondido CA.

*public parking garage located 2 blocks north of Civic Center



“I wish you wouldn’t make any more out-of-town-commitments until we get a member with a car!”

A New Way of Thinking

A few months ago, while she was arranging my grandmother's funeral, my mother was told that the ashes of her second husband were still stored at the mortuary. Mother married Theron when I was twelve, and they were married for seven or eight years. She and Theron divorced and both remarried before his death from cancer in 1984. No one had ever claimed his remains.

I was twelve the first time I got drunk. That evening, I blacked out, and when I was delivered to my home, I got sick. Theron cleaned me up and put me to bed. He was very patient and kind to me. As my disease progressed and I became more difficult, he also became more difficult. I was arrested several times, fired from jobs, stole their car, partied, and brought drugs into the house and attempted burglary at the home of a friend of Theron's. Finally, after being arrested again for drugs, this time at school, I was expelled and asked to leave their home.

My relationship with Theron had become intolerable. I know that my years of active alcoholism in that home contributed to the demise of the relationship between Theron and me as well as between him and my mother.

In 1992, eight years after he had died, I sobered up and started working the Steps. I put Theron's name on my 8th Step list. I asked my Higher Power for the willingness to make amends, and believed this would be one I'd only be able to make indirectly, possibly trying to live my life as a sober member of AA.

When I heard of the situation with his ashes, I inquired what was supposed to have happened to him. Mother told me that when he was dying, he had requested that his ashes be scattered over a nearby wilderness area in the Wallowa mountains. I knew this could be an opportunity to try to right a wrong. My sponsor agreed and suggested I make contact with Theron's wife, son, and daughter for approval. I would be traveling to that area on vacation, so I hoped to complete this goal. I was unsuccessful in locating his family, but, I made the necessary arrangements to pick up his ashes.

The time came for me to strap on my backpack and hike into the wilderness area. I climbed the mountains overlooking a spot I knew he was fond of. I said a prayer thanking my Higher Power for this man in my life and the opportunity to grant his last request. This was a wonderful experience for me, yet it also brought an awareness that inspired another amends.

When I returned to my mother's home a couple of days later, I was washing my pickup when a thought crossed my mind that I should make a deal with my mother to wash her car if she would let me use it that evening to go to a nearby town. My next thought was, "Why don't you just wash her car?" I began thinking about all the times I had used and abused— even stolen—her car in the past. I also thought about how she was retired and living on a limited income while I was working. So, I washed her car, feeling grateful for the opportunity to be of service, and drove to town that evening in my own pickup.

This experience proved to me, once again, that I can act myself into a new way of thinking.

David D. (North Plate, Nebraska)

The Dream, The Prayer and the Scroll

I woke up this morning at 7:30, I finally had a good night's sleep.

I laid back down (after checking in with my Sponsor) and I prayed I thanked the Lord for letting me get some rest and help me make it one more day without a drink.

Well.....I must have dozed off praying because I went into a dream of praying on the same subject (I know!) but I was writing the prayer with my fingers in the air (which I sometimes do,)

The prayer became longer and longer, it started coming out like I was making a scarf, getting longer and longer. At the far end someone was rolling it up as fast as I continued writing.

In the next dream, I had a large Scroll in my hand. I opened it up and it was was my prayer.

Diane B (2/27/97)

EVENTS

August 6th– **Summer Committee Meeting**-Lord of Life Lutheran Church. 9:00 a.m. 40W605 IL Route 38 La Fox, IL (Hosted by Dist. 12).

August 7th– **Alano Club of Waukegan Picnic**– Bowen Park– 12-6 p.m. 39 Jack Benny Dr. Waukegan IL. Volunteers needed (see club member)- bring a dish to pass. Kids games/ Water Park and Live Band.

August 12-14 2016 **IL State Conference and East Regional Conference** Pheasant Run Resort 401 E. Main St. Charles, IL. www.aailcon.org (online registration).

August 12-14 2016 **Wolf River AA Camping Trip** Bear Paw Campground White Lake, WI. Pete T. for more info: 847-331-8559 or sobercamping@hotmail.com.

August 27th– **20th Annual Life's a Beach Women's Meeting** -5:30– North Point Marina (Pit 3) Winthrop Harbor, IL Sheridan Rd. to 7th (signs). Speaker: Bonnie P. Bring a dish to pass.

August 28th – 6 p.m. **Monthly NIA District 10 GSR Business Meeting**. All AA members in the district are welcome. 5:30 Traditions Mtg. St. Gilberts Church, Grayslake, IL.

September 17th **NIA 20 Fall Assembly**-Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL Route 38 LaFox IL Register 8:00. Meeting 9:00. Lunch TBA.

Sept. 24th– **A Way Out Anniversary Party**– 6:00 p.m. Libertyville Civic Center (135 W. Church St). Free event. Food/Refreshments served. Speaker: Line G. –Escondido CA.

Sept. 25th – 6 p.m. **Monthly NIA District 10 GSR Business Meeting**. All AA members in the district are welcome. 5:30 Traditions Mtg. St. Gilberts Church, Grayslake, IL.

Step Eight

“Since defective relations with other human beings have nearly always been the immediate cause of our woes, including our alcoholism, no field of investigation could yield more satisfying and valuable rewards than this one” (12x12 page 80).

Be Part of Conscious Contact

All alcoholics are welcome to contribute to Conscious Contact. We'd be happy to publish your stories, poems, artwork and cartoons as long as they pertain to recovering from alcoholism. Maximum length is about 600 words. Send your material to Dawn O. at Sunshinedawn4@hotmail.com.

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District 10 answering service: 847-362-1811

2015 District 10 Officers (Confidential—this information is for A. A. use only.)

Every alcoholic is welcome at District 10 meetings, held on the fourth Sunday each month at St. Gilbert's Catholic Church, 301 E. Belvidere Rd in Grayslake—5:30 Tradition Meeting –6:00pm District meeting. See www.district10nia.org or call one of these committee members for details.

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