



# Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10.

Vol. 15 No. 6  
July 2016

- Next deadline:  
July 18
- Next District Mtg.:  
July 24

[www.district10nia.org](http://www.district10nia.org)  
[www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)  
[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## Also in this issue

AA Story 2

AA Events 3

District Contacts 4

## 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!

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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.”

Northern Illinois Area 20  
District 10, P. O. Box 854  
Libertyville, IL 60048

Answering  
Service:  
847-362-1811

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.

## 2nd Annual District 10 Summer Picnic

Sun. July 17th Half Day Forest Preserve

24255 N. Hwy. 21 Vernon Hills, IL.

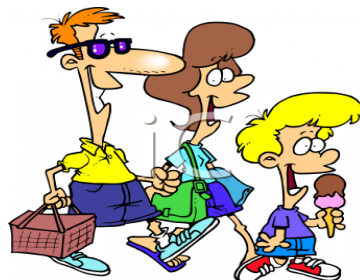
Shelter B— 12 p.m. Until Sunset

Speaker: Ali S. at 2:00 p.m.

Bring your signature dish to pass.

Volunteers needed– call Dana 847-322-5256

or Carl 847-444-9543



## The New Beginning

### **The Fantasy**

They go there often, their favorite little inn. The candles are low, the mood is romantic, the air is smoky, the music. . .blue. They toast to love, they toast to life, they toast to today. . .that it be as wonderful as yesterday and even better tomorrow. All eyes are on them as he holds her on the dance floor in an affectionate embrace. Her eyes twinkle as Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" plays softly on the jukebox. She nestles her warm cheek against his neck and kisses him with subtle passion. Her heart beats slowly in time with his and they sway rhythmically to "their song." She whispers gently into his ear, squeezes his hand. They finish their dance, finish their drinks, and begin the night--as lovers.

### **The Reality**

She goes there every night--her favorite tavern, where the drinks are cheap and no one notices if she's there or not. He goes there too, a nice, dark place, a place to be alone and have a few cocktails. The lights are dimmed, the mood is somber, the air is smoke-filled, the music is rock 'n' roll. They click their glasses and toast to each other. "What's your name?" he asks. "Nice to meet you, too," she responds absently. He checks her out. She does the same. "Can I buy you another?" he asks. Another? Another? Fade to black. All eyes are on them as they stagger to the dance floor. He whirls her around and she holds him tight so that she doesn't fall. Jimmy Buffet's song "Why Don't We Get Drunk. . ." is blasting on the jukebox. She grabs him and slurs something in his ear, her head swooning from the alcohol. He nods in agreement. They finish their dance, they finish their drinks, and they finish the night. . .each with a stranger.

### **The New Beginning**

They go there often, their favorite place. The lights are bright, the air is smoky, the chatter. . .powerful. The mood is one of hope. They celebrate life as it is today. . .that yesterday is but a memory and tomorrow a vision. They sit at a table among many friends. The chairs stop squeaking and the chatter comes to a respectful halt as all attention is focused toward the front of the room. He clears his throat, fidgets nervously with the cast on his arm (a reminder of what it was like to be back out there), and his beautiful, honest brown eyes search out the crowd for one understanding soul to comfort his uneasiness, and he finds not one but all willing to share his burden. Among them she sits, as he tells a story of what happened and what it's like now. Tears well up in her eyes as she listens. When he has finished, he is welcomed back with forgiveness and acceptance and she can't wait to talk to him and tell him "thanks."

Nervously, she whispers in passing, "Thank you for trusting us with all your pain and sadness." Once again, their eyes meet, they hug, finish their coffee, and start their lives over, each with a newfound friend.

*Published in May's 1993 Grapevine by Ingeri B.*

EVENTS

July 4th– 11 a.m. **“Humble Monday” AA Picnic.** St. Phillips Church 1609 Pfingsten Rd. Glenview. 12 p.m. Open AA Meeting. (No fireworks please).

July 10th – 1-3 P.M. **2016 State Conference (and East Central Regional Conference) Planning Committee,** Lake Zurich Police Department -200 Mohawk Trail- Lake Zurich, IL .

July 10th– **Serenity House Picnic BBQ and Summer Salad Cook off**—12 p.m. 1103 Park Ave. Libertyville. \$5.00 Bring dish to pass and lawn chair, and your favorite salad.

July 16- **Step 6&7** 11:30 a.m. Speaker Jim M. Serenity House 1103 Park Ave. Libertyville.

July 17th– **2nd Annual District 10 Summer Picnic**– Half Day Forest Preserve (Shelter B) - 24255 N. Hwy. 21 Vernon Hills IL Noon to Dusk. Speaker Ali S.

July 24th- **District 12 Summer Bash Picnic**– Greenbelt Forest Preserve (Shelter A) 1210 Greenbay Rd. N. Chicago, IL– Noon-Dusk \$5.00– Speaker Joel G.

July 24th – 5:30 p.m. **Monthly NIA District 10 GSR Business Meeting.** All members in the district are welcome. 5:00 Traditions Mtg. **Serenity House** 1103 Park Ave. Libertyville

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](http://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](mailto: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.

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

**Step Seven**

“The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God ” (12x12 page 76)

*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](mailto:Sunshinedawn4@hotmail.com) .

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**Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.** PO Box 1056 Yorkville, IL 60560

**General Service Office** PO Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

**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](http://www.district10nia.org) or call one of these committee members for details.

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