

District 12 Newsletter

February 2012

Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.



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I REALLY CAME TO BELIEVE

Kim W., Zion, IL

I knew not love, lost and alone, scared and insecure, never fit in or belonged, always searching.. Where was this thing called love. The emptiness inside of me, the void that couldn't be filled, Oh love, where are you? At home I was a burden, seemed no one cared, in school I didn't belong I was a ghost belonging no where. Walking through life hurt and alone, oh love, where are you? Smoking, and drinking, now I belong; but it only lasts for awhile, now everyone is gone. Oh love, where are you? Many men, they come and go, you think each is the one, oh love, where are you? Someone told me about God and A.A., I listened and went on. A baby, a little baby to love and love me, that is the answer that is the key; it didn't work; oh God it's still there, now what do I do, a baby and loneliness too! I just can't do it, I want to give up, who do I turn to, where do I go, oh love, where are you? More men, more drinking, more craziness, still lost and alone; someone told me about God and I heard and He took me by the hand and showed me back to A.A. (home). I finally got it... now I am were I belong.

For me it started with first connecting with my Higher Power who I choose to call God. I found a peace I never had before and I held onto it for dear life. That void in my heart went away but for some reason I was not changing; my life was still crazy. I still was looking for others to make me happy. I was obsessed with pleasing people so they would accept me and love me. I would love them to the point of driving them away, leaving me hurt and abandoned wondering why. I stopped drinking for 5 years using church, and it worked in some aspects, but I believe I was more miserable than not and did not understand why, and of course I could not share it with the people at church because I was suppose to act a certain way and portray this wonderful image. I was dying inside. I was on a miserable dry drunk for a long time. I had a wedding to attend and I decided to have a little fun. I still did not know how to do that sober, so I got me a bottle and it was on. I succeeded once

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Tradition Two (Long Form)

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

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again with what I just came to understand as “pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization.” I don’t believe any more detail is needed. I learned on that one drunk the truth in the progression of the disease of alcoholism; but I still believed I could do this with church (I did not want to surrender to the idea that I am an alcoholic). God proved me wrong, He had other plans for me. I continued another 4 years of going to church and being so unhappy, not growing, not having peace, absolutely miserable and I did not know what to do about it. I continued to be dry and sick. I needed help or I was going to die. The depression and thoughts of suicide where so overwhelming that I could do nothing but finally get on my knees and ask God for help. Keep in mind it had been at least 15 years since I attended an A.A. meeting. The morning after asking God for help, he spoke to my heart and told me he wanted me back in Alcoholics Anonymous. I said to myself, where is that coming from! But for some reason I went with the voice and I found a meeting that day. When I walked into the rooms of that first meeting after so many years and sat down and said my name is Kim and I am an alcoholic (I finally believed after 36 miserable years of doing it my way), a peace came over me and I knew that I was safe and I was exactly where God wanted me to be. I remember some of what I learned years prior, only this time I started taking action. I go to meetings almost daily, I have a sponsor, I am working the steps daily, not just reading them, but putting them into practice. I do service work, and I have made so many wonderful friends. Thank you God and A.A. for giving me the life I never dreamed possible. The journey is awesome! I would like to report that I have just over a year SOBER.... A Power greater than myself is restoring me to sanity!

The District 12 Newsletter needs your help!

All alcoholics are welcome to contribute. We are happy to publish your recovery-related stories, poems, artwork, etc.
Send submissions to newsletter@aadistrict12.com

A.A. Contacts

General Service Office: <http://www.aa.org>
Northern Illinois Area 20: <http://www.aa-nia.org>
District 12 Website: <http://www.aadistrict12.com>
District 12 Answering Service: 847-623-9660

District 12 Officers (Confidential – this information is for A.A. Use only)

If you are interested in one of the positions listed as OPEN, please contact an officer.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Martin C.	773-870-4010	claussenmartin@aol.com	OPEN		
Secretary	Terry V.		enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Sue D.	847-502-1007	susie12956@aol.com	Ron K.	847-623-0953	crkytasaari@att.net
Answering Service	OPEN			OPEN		
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	224-399-6720		Francis K.		
Corrections	Chris M.	224-440-5096		Scott E.		
Grapevine	Pete O.	847-662-8737	peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	OPEN			OPEN		
Literature	John M.			OPEN		
Newsletter	Kim W.	847-815-3316	lakecountydistrict12aa@gmail.com	Nick P.	847-872-6727	nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net
Directory	Ted T.	224-627-7638		OPEN		
Archive	Marlene	224-545-1495	grubbsmarlene@gmail.com	OPEN		
Special Events	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	OPEN		
District Breakfast	Jimmy F.	847-609-7354		Jimmy P.	224-538-1689	jimipinkstaff@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Larry			OPEN		

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE

Starting January 2 until April 1, 2012, all meetings at Joy Lutheran Church, Gurnee will be moved to Lakeland Church, 440 N. Hunt Club Rd. Gurnee (North of Washington, west side of Hunt Club)

The church is remodeling and found us temporary housing during the construction phase. Please pass the word around.

Corrections

Help Wanted

Lake County Work Release Program

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:15 pm.
It's really great service work!

Please call Chris for more information.
224-440-5096

WANTED

YOUR STORY (short)

HOW IT RELATES TO THE STEP OF THE MONTH

March-December

Would like to use stories of people we all know
Contact Kim W. 847-815-3316

NEW MEETING

Women's Wanderers' is Moving
Time: Wed. @ 6:30 - 8 PM
Place: 1st United Methodist Church
128 Martin Luther King Dr.
Waukegan, IL

Contact: Darlene C. 847-361-2148

BIG BOOK OPEN DISCUSSION

30th Annual AA/Al-Anon/Alateen Tri-County Spring Mini-Conference

March 10, 2012

PLANNING MEETINGS

Will be held on the first Sunday of each month
beginning October 2nd, 2011

Time: 12:30 pm
Place: Kenosha Alano Club
630 56th Street
Kenosha, WI

We need your help. Bring a friend or two.

NIA 20 SPRING CONFERENCE

March 2-4, 2012

At Georgios
Orland Park, IL
Contact Debbie G.
815-693-7142

Looking for a Sponsor/Sponsee?

Join us at the

ATP Sponsorship Panel

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 12:45pm

Female sponsors needed!

Addictions Treatment Program
3002 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085

Meeting Needs Support

Here's How Group
8:00 PM Tuesdays
Gurnee Community Church
4555 Route 132
Gurnee, IL 60031

District 12 Meeting

Third Sunday of every month at 4:00PM at Vista Medical Center West, 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, Illinois 60085. All alcoholics are welcome and group GSRs are strongly encouraged to attend.

New Time & Place!

The District 12 Open Speaker Breakfast
Victory Hospital
(also known as Vista Medical Center East)
Cost: \$7.00
Start time is 8:30 AM
1st Sunday of every month

District 12 Secretary Report, December 2011

New Comers:-James T. -Waukegan Old Business : None

Announcements: January Tri-County conference meeting will be on Jan. 8th due to the holiday After that it will go back to its usual date. Out of the Woodworks meeting will be on Dec 26 at 7pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest. See Francis for details. Registration flyers are on the table for Tri-County Conference.

New Business: None

DCM Report – Martin told us of a suggestion that Denny M. asked about for us to close the meeting with the statement of responsibility instead of the Lord's Prayer, since we are service-oriented, not religious. This suggestion was open for discussion. This was intended for our dist. meeting only and didn't pertain to group meetings. He also gave us a report about the Area Assembly. 13 out of 14 motions passed. The one that didn't was about the Spring Assembly embedded into the Spring Conference. It was tabled to a later date. The Spring Assembly 2012 is in Kankakee. Martin volunteered our area to host the Pre-General Service Conference in April. He will get the guidelines and building requirements for us. District 10 would be willing to assist us. Cheryl V will have allot to do with that.

Secretary Report: Bill W-Area Chair-Corrections- wanted it to be clear that his offer for financial help was for Correction purposes only. Otherwise the report was correct.

Treasurers Report: Special Events balance was low so Sue made a transfer from the regular funds. She gave us the proposed budget for acceptance. Adjustments were made and accepted. Pete asked for extra money added to his budget for Grapevine. He was told he could always ask for money in a motion later in the year. Answering service had an increase last year but it was not used. Otherwise the reports

Committee Reports

Answering Service: No report. Archives: Marlene was not here. No report.

CPC/Treatment: Frank went to the Area Assembly. He spoke about the Drug Court Dinner in November. He talked of joining forces with Dist. 10 for a workshop. He brought up "The Green Can" for the VA, Resurrection, Southern Lake County and ATP. The "Pink Can" was for local use first, then passed on to the area level. Francis contacted Highland Park Hospital. They appreciated all the literature. Frank will talk with him more.

Corrections: Scott E. stated that due to other circumstances he is unable to attend meetings at LC jail. He did go to the Area Conference as well. There is a need for used literature/Grapevines as 3 penitentiaries downstate have new meetings opening. He wanted to know if our district could help with funds. We did that for servicemen. Scott has a volunteer sheet for those interested in signing up. There is a pre-release program, similar to Bridging the Gap that temporarily helps with the transition. Allot of them are being sent to half-way houses. Karen F. spoke to Chris. Salvation Army would be a resource for new volunteers since they are eligible to go into the jail meetings. Chris was excited about the prospect.

Directories: John said a new printing was soon and would bring them to the Dist. Christmas Party. A group must be established 6 months before entering their listing.

District Breakfast: Sue gave us the report that she contacted Vista East Hospital regarding the size of 75 for breakfast. She was told if we got new contracts, it would actually cost us more money. If we keep the same contract it will stay at \$4.62 per person but with a new contract the price would go to \$6.59 per person. She asked about other options, which didn't include hot food, but the prices were still higher. Only 4 months out of 12 have made enough money to support the cost. A vote was taken to raise the cost to \$7.00 beginning in January. It was voted on and accepted. Also they decided only to give away 1 free book and 1 free breakfast, but the 50/50 raffle will stay the same.

Grapevine: Pete O. told us of a special for 2 Grapevine subscriptions for \$32 going on now.

Literature: No Report. John starts in January as the new Chairperson.

News Letter: Jeremy D. brought copies of the January Newsletter. Kim W. takes over in February. She purchased the correct software for \$122 to do the Newsletter. Jeremy stated that doing the newsletter was an important part of his program. For the last 5 years it has kept him grounded in sobriety. And thanked us for the opportunity to serve the District.

PI.: No report.

Special Events: Karen F. Karen reminded us to pick up Turkeys today. She asked us to let people know that the Christmas Party started at 2:00 not 1:00. If people get there early we can always put them to work. She asked if we could bring in any money for the raffle tickets and give it to her on Sunday, at the party. Her next event to work on will be Spring Breakfast.

Treatment: No Report

Web Master: Larry cannot attend. Francis K. has someone interested in being the alternate. That person will attend in January..

Open Discussion Time: Daniel asked if there would be a GSR follow up to the last workshop. We are hoping to encourage other GSRs to attend our District meetings. Martin said there were plans for a GSR School. He thought maybe they can get a service sponsor to guide them before that.

Bill W., our Area Corrections Chair, is trying to get a Corrections and Treatment Workshop approved. He was thinking maybe it would be in March or later at the Waukegan Alano Club. He was looking for help with this Workshop. Frank said CPC has money to help with this cause. Martin suggested they should do the workshop in a church instead of the Alano Club. We would like to have both Dist. 10 & 12 sponsor this service workshop.

Tom B. has updated forms for those who are approved to do jail meetings. The new Captain said there are too many names on the list that do not attend. He would like us to file new updated forms.

Next meeting will be January 15, 4 p.m. Closed with The Lord's Prayer: 5:12 p.m.