

# District 12 Newsletter

June 2012

## Step Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”



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Don’t Drink

One Day At A Time

Ask For Help

Go To Meetings

And CHANGE

### “I’m Ready God”

By Michelle B., Wkgn, IL

Hi everyone. My name is Michelle and I am an alcoholic and chemically dependent. Kim asked if I would share my thoughts on Step 6, “were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character”, and of course I felt I had no choice but to say OK. As quickly as I agreed to do this I was overwhelmed with fear of having to write this. Before coming into AA this overwhelming fear was the ruler of my life and behind all of my defects and shortcomings. Step 6 in the Big Book is only one paragraph, simple and to the point. It is also a very difficult Step for me to practice. It asks after completing Step 5, am I now ready for God to remove All the things which we have admitted are objectionable in our Fifth Step? When things are going the way I think they should go and life is treating me the way I think it should I am very willing to have God remove All my defects. But yet when a situation arises and I feel I have been wronged my first reaction is to reach into that old bag of defects filled with self righteous anger, false pride and resentment. I begin to make it ALL about ME. But today I do not have to follow thru with the old behavior. The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous has given me the directions on how to change my thinking and living. AA is teaching me it is not all about me today but it is about God, My Creator, My Higher Power. Step 6 tells me all I have to have is willingness and God has the Power to accomplish what I had been unable to do for myself. In working the proceeding Steps, in order, not choosing only what I thought was important, my life is not mine any longer. What a relief!!! I was chosen, handed the gift of Sobriety from My God. He loved me so much he surrounded me with others who knew and understood my pain. He took away my insane obsession of drinking and drugging. He gave me courage to put pen to paper and reveal all the areas in my life I had desperately tried to escape from. His arms were around me when I had to share what I had written and it was God’s unconditional love for me that I could bravely face MY defects of character. I wish I could say I always keep that bag of defects in God’s hands and out of mine, but ask my family and they will agree I sometimes reach into that bag of defects of character... so I will keep coming back and pray for the willingness to work the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in all areas of my life One Day At A Time.

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*13th Step*  
*By Terry V., Wkgn, IL*

When I first came through the doors I had enough sense to choose a good strong sponsor. But not enough sense to follow some of the wisdom she had shared with me that she had learned from others before her. So I had to learn the hard way—which seemed to be the only way I learned things back then.

One of these life lessons was about dating. There are many good reasons why it is a suggestion not to start any intimate relationships in the 1st year. Bonnie tried to tell me this but once my loneliness and other urges started kicking in all of the words fell to deaf ears.

AA is not to be used as a dating game. It is not where you look for your next significant other. Or your next EX-SIGNIFICANT other!

When I first sobered up, my emotions and feelings were very mixed up. And it was difficult to stay focused on a program of recovery. Every little set-back or upset seemed determined to derail things. It was easy to be distracted and put focus on other people, places and things. Putting my recovery first, above all, was a challenge some days.

And then there were the dinners and dances and picnics and plenty of guys at all of them.

I was young and single and fell into a trap. I was looking for attention and affection. I was looking for love and started looking in the wrong places. I certainly had enough issues with sexual relationships already, but began to date contrary to what my sponsor suggested otherwise. I was vulnerable and unaware of “13th steppers”. It cost me a lot of time, energy and effort, because I thought I knew better. I thought I could handle things. Don’t get me wrong—most of the people you meet in program have the higher standards to work a good program. And then there are others, who... Well, let’s just say I seemed to attract those kind in the first year.

If you come here with intentions of finding the “right” person to complete you... You are here for the wrong reason. My Higher Power allowed me to fail, to teach me how to make wiser choices in my decisions. And to listen...

So next time you are sitting around the tables or at an AA function and someone who catches your eye is there too... do them and yourself, actually, a favor: LEAVE THEM ALONE! If you truly like them, let them get a good foot hold in their program. Help them stay solid in their recovery by not distracting them. WAIT! DON’T BE SELFISH!

We are all vulnerable and easily get tangled up in the beginning. Don’t take advantage of that. Just wait until that person has reached that first year. If they are worth knowing—they will still be there around the tables in a year. If they haven’t made it and are not there, then you will have done yourself a favor too. Otherwise, the heartache you might have helped to create may become their next big EXCUSE for getting drunk again!

# **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LIFE'S A BEACH**

When: Saturday, August 11, 2012

Time: 5:30 pm social, 7:00 speaker

Where: North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor

Speaker: Patty P., Kenosha, WI

## **Still Need Help**

### **Lake County Work Release Program**

2nd Thursday and 3rd Tuesday  
at 7:15 pm.

It's really great service work!

### **WE ARE IN NEED OF WOMEN**

Please call Chris for more information.

Chris M. 224-441-0454

## **SUMMER BASH**

Place: Greenbelt Forest Preserve, Shelter A

Date: June 10th 2012

Time: 1- 5 pm

Cost: \$5.00 kids under 10 \$3.00

Speaker at 3 pm

Along with kids games

Burgers, Pop

Bring a dish to pass

**This is a fundraiser for the Christmas Party**

Contact: Karen F. 847-609-7354

## **BRIDGE HOUSE IS TURNING 40!**

Birthday Celebration

Saturday, July 7th

4-8 pm

3016 Grand Ave.

Waukegan, IL 60085

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti dinner

Open house, raffle, kids play area, and more

Adults—\$5.00

Kids—\$3.00

For more Info call: 847-662-4124

## **OPEN SPEAKER/MEDALLION NIGHT**

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zion Benton Alano Club

Speaker: Barb S., Foxlake, IL

Barb has been working on getting H.A. meetings in Lake County. If you or someone you know and love is interested in H.A. please come and listen to Barb share her experience, strength and hope.

There will be questions and answers to follow.

## **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

## **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.

## **Step Study**

Wednesdays @ 7 pm

St. Mark's Church

Yorkhouse & Delany Rd., Wkgn.

## **New Time & Place!**

The District 12 Open Speaker Breakfast    Vic-  
tory Hospital

(also known as Vista Medical Center East)

Cost: \$7.00

Start time is 8:30 AM

1st Sunday of every month

## *“Don’t Be Fooled by Me”*

I want you to know how important you are to me, how you can be the creator of the person that is in me if you choose to. You alone can break down the wall behind which I tremble. You alone can see behind my mask. You alone can release me from my shadow world of panic and uncertainty and loneliness. So please don’t pass me by. I know it will not be easy for you. A conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls. And the nearer that you approach me, the blinder I may strike back. You see, I am to be fighting against the very thing I need the most. But I am told that love is stronger than walls, and in this, lies my only hope. So beat down those walls with your firm but gentle hands, for the child in me is very sensitive and can’t grow behind walls. **So don’t give up. I need you.**

### *Page 63 12x12—I Was Beaten*

“Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But **when I became willing** to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me.”

#### **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 lakecountydistrict12aa@gmail.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	<b>OPEN</b>		
Secretary	Terry V.		enchantedattic@hotmail.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Treasurer	Sue D.	847-502-1007	susie12956@aol.com	Ron K.	847-623-0953	crkytasaari@att.net
Answering Service	<b>OPEN</b>			<b>OPEN</b>		
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	224-399-6720		<b>Francis K.</b>	847-744-0793	
Corrections	Chris M.	224-440-5096		Scott E.		
Grapevine	Pete O.	847-662-8737	peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Public Information	<b>OPEN</b>			<b>OPEN</b>		
Literature	John M.			<b>OPEN</b>		
Newsletter	Kim W.	847-815-3316	lakecountydistrict12aa@gmail.com	Nick P.	847-872-6727	nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net
Directory	Ted T.	224-627-7638		<b>OPEN</b>		
Archive	Marlene	224-545-1495	grubbsmarlene@gmail.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Special Events	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	<b>OPEN</b>		
District Breakfast	Jimmy F.	847-609-7354		Jimmy P.	224-538-1689	jjimipinkstaff@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Larry			Beth B.	224-522-1676	pollockburke@gmail.com