

District 12 Newsletter

September 2012

Step Nine

Made direct amends to such people, wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.



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Don't Drink

One Day At A Time

Ask For Help

Go To Meetings

And CHANGE

By Jeremy D.

Step 9 - Made direct amends to such people, wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

I'll admit, I've screwed this step up a time or three... At other times, God's grace has prevailed over my misbegotten attempt to selfishly purge past sins by apologizing to sometimes an unwitting victim.

I believe now that there must be no selfishness involved, nor any expectation of vindication, no expectations whatsoever. Patience pays off here, not 1 of my stronger character assets. I'm much more comfortable with having hope, hope that because I made the amends, things will be better.... maybe not for me right away, again the patience thing. But maybe, just maybe the person I hurt, will heal.

The biggest amends I had to make was to my deceased Grandfather. He was my father figure, my guardian, my rock. As my alcoholism took over our lives, the stress level was high. He died suddenly of a heart attack. I was 18 and he was 68. The night before he died, we had a tremendous argument, I was drunk, he raised his hand to me for the 1st time. The morning he died, he was roused from sleep to drive me to CLC for I had crashed/ruined my 5th car. I was actually drinking that morning and have no recollection of what would be my last conversation with him.

2 years later, I was about 15 months sober it was Christmas and my Uncle who had been sober many years pulled me aside and made his amends to me for blaming me for killing his father, my grandfather. He forgave me. Problem 1) I hadn't forgiven myself yet.... Problem 2) I'm a newbie, reality sucks and I wanted to drink.

Looking back on that experience, I realize my Uncle was working

his program, the steps, to the best of his ability. His amends only confirmed the guilt I felt. I had my work cut out for me.

Fast forward 12 years later, my Step Grandmother became very ill, very fast. For many reasons, one being she had no children with my Grandfather, the only love of her life, I felt I had to step up to the plate. With a diagnosis of congestive heart failure, a failed triple bypass, alcoholic dementia and breast cancer she did amazingly well for almost 4 1/2 years. I had a difficult time as I had never grown close to her growing up with her being essentially my parent. I did the best I could to make sure she was comfortable and safe most of the time. I must disclose, within minutes of bringing her home from the nursing home, I put her on the phone with her sister and proceeded to bring her clothes in, she lit her hair on fire while lighting a cigarette off the stove, she favored Aqua-net and smoking, a great deal... I learned a lesson that day. As stressful as it all was for me, I would find relief at Berger Hall, purge myself at a meeting and then drive home talking/praying to my Grandpa. I finally felt the guilt for his death dissipate. After my Step Gram passed and everything was taken care of, I had a tremendous amount of relief. I had repaid my debt, through living amends to a loved one who died many, many years ago. Sometimes the choice of direct amends is not possible, but the 9th Step can still be accomplished.

Tradition Nine

A.A. has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—**A True Fellowship.**

Get Ready For
2012 NIA Big Book Conference

October 20th, 2012
@ University of St. Mary of the Lake
1000 E. Maple Ave, Mundelein, IL

New Meeting

ZB Alano Club
228 Sheridan Rd., Winthrop Harbor
Sundays at 4:30

Please come and give your support



God Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference

New Beach Meeting

Memorial Day til Labor Day
Sundays at 9 am
Illinois Beach State Park
(Sheridan and Wadsworth)
Enter park by Resort

Support and Serenity

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hey Everybody!

Did you lose the **Bunch O Nuts**....

Cause Guess What?!

We found them and they miss you...

St. Marks Lutheran Church

Yorkhouse and Delany

7 pm on Tuesdays

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

Big Book Meeting

Monday 6:00 pm

Meadow Ridge Church

Rt 173 and Green Bay Rd.

Zion

Please Bring Your Big Book

Jail Volunteers Needed

For more Info contact:

Kathy

847-212-3615

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.

GET READY!!!!

23rd Annual McHenry's Soberfest

November 16-18, 2012

Grand Geneva Resort

Lake Geneva, WI

AA Conference, Banquet, Dance, Alcahons, Panels, Step Workshops, Literature, Archives, Meditation Room

Register online: www.soberfest.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

12 STEP WORK

St. Terese Psych Unit Meeting

Sunday 10 am Tues 7 pm

Sponsor Panel

1st and 3rd Saturdays 12:45 til 2 pm

Drug Court

1:30 pm Fridays Court 202

9:00 am Fridays Court 307

Contact: Frank M. 847-336-2775

COMING SOON YOUNG FOLKS WILL BE NEEDED TO TALK TO YOUNG PEOPLE!!!!

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

~ Let Go, My Child ~

As children bring their broken toys
with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
because He is my friend.
...But then instead of leaving Him
in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
with ways that were my own.
At last, I snatched them back and cried,
"How can you be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "What could I do?
You never did let go!"



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	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.	847-336-2775		Francis K.	847-744-0793	
Corrections	Pete O.	847-662-8737	Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com	Kathy H.	847-731-2339	kathak@aol.com
Grapevine	James T.	847-722-5608	JamesT@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	Beth B.	224.522-1676	pollockburke@gmail.com	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat1@juno.com