

District 12 Newsletter

December 2012

Step Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”



Nick P, Wkgn, Spiritual Awakening	1
Events	2
Events & Announcements	3
A.A. Contacts, and Something to think about!	4

Nick P., Waukegan
Spiritual Awakening

I was a bit surprised that I was asked to write about a step involving a spiritual awakening when anyone who has been to a few meetings with me could verify that I am much more of an authority on spiritual snoozing. Well.....we are told there are a lot of paradoxes in this program.....and.... perhaps the most commonly heard paradox is that "you have to give it away to keep it". So here goes.

For me, "a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps" has been a slow, not always progressive, understanding of myself, man and God. It is made up of small insightful episodes. They occur when, as if out of nowhere, solutions or promises are realized as true and (Eureka!) a new perspective is achieved. To my mind the first 11 steps are intended to crush ego and self-centeredness so that we may gain a humility that will nourish a God connection and, in turn, the spiritual awakening. I was told., and I believe, that this cumulative awareness is the wisdom that life is best lived as an ongoing process of amends to humanity, myself, and God.

Next, the idea that we "carry this message" can be so valuable to me in regards to self esteem and self image. Carrying the message can give purpose and meaning. It promotes a positive thinking and a grateful perspective. It reaffirms my direction. And, as I have heard Slim say over a hundred times, "Each 12th step call I made was a success.....it kept me sober." What is wonderful about carrying the A.A. message is that there so much more to do than 12th step calls. Making coffee, cleaning up, chairing meetings, taking on service positions and sharing or just listening they all contribute to make this a program of attraction and ensure that the message is out there and a bit more tolerable for the newcomer. It is not just cessation to alcohol A.A. offers, it is a lifestyle that that I am happy and thankful to call my own. Finally, "practice these principles in all our affairs" does follow the words "we tried". We are not saints. Before I came to A.A. all I had were the three principals of convenience, profitability and hedonism. My words to live by were "what's in it for me?" Over the years by 1) begrudgingly working with a sponsor and doing the steps, 2) going to meetings when I really didn't feel like it, and 3) being forced into voluntary service work; I have acquired some discipline and direction to overhaul my principles. Change my principles and I found my behavior changed naturally. But those 3 old principles are always eager to come back so I keep on doing the A.A. deal. When guided by my higher power, I find that so often the more inconvenient and undesirable the task, the greater the spiritual importance of that memory. It is, as if, by crossing over my physical, mental and emotional comfort zones I will eventually end up in a spiritual zone of well being. So, if I haven't put you into a spiritual snore; know that sharing this has helped me to stay sober and gladdened my heart that I might be of some help. I have to give it away to keep it.



It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

Get a Sponsor don't go it alone....

MERRY CHRISTMAS/ HAPPY HOLIDAYS

District 12

Invites you to have dinner with Santa

When: Sunday, December 9, 2012

**Where: Gurnee Community Church
4555 Old Grand Ave.
Gurnee, IL 60031**

Time:

2:00—Coffee

3:00 - Speaker—Frank M., Waukegan

4:00—Dinner

5:00—Santa and Raffle

**Bring a dessert to pass. There will be gifts
for kids 10 and under. Please come and join
us for some Holiday cheer!**

For more info call Karen F. 847-609-7354



©LaffToon * illustrationsOf.com/27066

Tradition 12

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future. Page 184 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

-ATTENTION-

GSR’S WANTED

You Know How it Works!

Come find out Why it Works!

Join us at the District Meeting

The Third Sunday of Every Month

4pm @ Vista West



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

Tradition 12 Long Form

And finally, we of A.A. believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Events & Announcements

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY



ZION BENTON ALANO CLUB

Dinner/ Speaker/Dance

Marlene G., Waukegan is speaking at 8pm

Baked Ham provided

Bring a dish to pass

Contact: Stacy S., 224-545-7564

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.

**VOLUNTEERS WE
NEED A COMMITMENT!!!**

Lake County Work Release
Tuesday and/or Thursday
Once or twice a month
7:15 pm

Both men and women needed
For more info contact: Pete 224-381-9992

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
12 STEP WORK**

St. Therese 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

Rent-A-Sponsor

- Are you tired of being told like it is?
- Still looking for that easier, softer way?
- Had enough of that same old time-tested direction?

No Reading! No Writing! No Deadlines!

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- *Listening to your sniveling without constant reference to the Big Book or Steps!
- *Co-signing your excuses and rationalizations!
- *Work only the Steps you want, in the order you choose!
- *Learn the secret of giving it away before you even have it!
- *Why "walk the walk" when you can just "talk the talk?"
- *Remember, it's better to look good than to feel good!

FOURTH STEP WRITING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

Yes, we will sponsor you now!

HALF MEASURES ARE OUR SPECIALTY!

Call 1-900-O-POOR-ME or 1-900-POUR-ME-1

Call now and receive a free copy of

"Staying Sober on War Stories Alone!"

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.choa73@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