

District 12 Newsletter

March 2015

Step Three

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

Step Three: Relax, enjoy the ride.

Turning your life over the HP is like turning your car over to GPS lady



“Turn right”, instructed the synthetic female voice of the GPS navigation unit affixed to my windshield. I looked to the right and saw barricades and “Road Closed” signs in front of bulldozers and earthmovers parked on what used to be State Route 39. There was major road construction, and ramps to 1-70 were closed.

I continued straight through the intersection along an unfamiliar country road that headed west through central Indiana. “Recalculating” said the GPS unit. “Drive two point six miles and turn left.”

In a couple of minutes I pulled up to a stop sign and looked both ways. I thought, What? I don’t want to turn left. I want to turn right. To my right, the empty two-lane blacktop road rose over the freeway and disappeared into an endless expanse of dormant cornfields. I looked to the left. The ribbon of tarmac headed due south into a patchwork of grey and brown fields, illuminated in the mid-April sunshine. I paused for a moment. I needed to take 1-70 West to get to the golf outing in central Illinois.

Turning left now and heading south did not feel right. My impulse was to turn right and find my way through the labyrinth of unknown county roads to the north until I could get to the freeway. I looked at the GPS, the map clearly showing the intersection I was stopped at with a large white arrow indicating a left turn. Trust the GPS, I said to myself. It will find the best route. I turned left.

I followed the GPS directions and zigzagged through the countryside. The sky was deep blue with a few puffy white cumulus clouds floating slowly by. It was a beautiful day, and I was ready for a break from the hectic pace of my high-pressure job. I followed the directions as they came and enjoyed the drive. Before I knew it, I arrived at an intersection only a stones’ throw from an entrance ramp to 1-70. Nice! I got onto the freeway and looked at the estimated arrival time. I’d be there at 12:10 p.m.-plenty of time to grab lunch with my AA friends before teeing off at 1:00. Taking direction from the GPS worked out very well indeed. As I drove along, I reflected on what had just happened. I had made a decision. I decided to turn my journey over to the direction of a device that I know practically nothing about, even though it didn’t feel right to me at the time. Sure, I have a general ideas of how the Global Positioning System operates and can input an address or find a gas station, but do I really understand how or why it works? No. I don’t understand how the microprocessor works or the algorithm that allows it to calculate the best route from point A to point B. And I don’t have to. I ask it for direction, follow its guidance (even after I miss a turn or find construction blocking my way), and continue down the road. It can find the best route where I would be stumbling along blindly.

This all had a very familiar ring to it. I thought about the Twelve Steps. In Step Three we made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care and direction of “God as we understood Him.” Over the past 16 years, as the result of acting on that decision by moving forward with Steps Four through Twelve, I’ve had a spiritual awakening and enjoy a quality of life that I would previously have thought impossible. *(continued on page 2)*

Step Three: Relax, enjoy the ride. 1

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Step Three: Relax, enjoy the ride. *(continued)* Recently my fiancée needed the GPS, so I was without it on a four-day business trip. I found myself glancing up where it normally is time and again, looking for speed limit or traffic information on the route ahead. I realized that I've come to rely on the GPS, and when it's missing I really notice it. It is much the same for me with my conscious contact with God as I understand him. On the days I take time for prayer and meditation, I feel grounded and comfortable. I've come to rely on it. When I get in a hurry and don't start my day with some quiet time I feel restless, irritable and discontented at some point in the day.

Do I really understand how or why God works? No. And I don't have to. If I ask for direction everyday through prayer and meditation, follow God's guidance by taking action on what I perceive to be his will for me that day (whether it "feels" right at the time or not), and work with other alcoholics, then I can relax and enjoy the journey. Taking direction from a power greater than myself has worked out very well indeed.

Like my GPS, the God idea works...whether I understand it or not.

John O. Martinsville, Ind.
A.A. Grapevine, March 2012

Acceptance is the Key!
Women's A.A. Meeting

Monday 6:00 pm
Where: Alano Club of Waukegan,
2419 Washington St. Waukegan, IL
Come Share Your Experience, Strength & Hope!

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

**33rd ANNUAL
A.A., AL-ANON, ALATEEN
TRI-COUNTY MINI-CONFERENCE**

HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE
**U.A.W. HALL 3615 WASHINGTON ROAD
KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53144
SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2015**

Registration Opens at 8:00 A.M.

Kick-Off at 9:00 A.M.

Day Sessions \$1.00 suggested Donation

Panels begin at 10:30 a.m...All day Alkathon...Chili Lunch at Noon \$1 per bowl.

Banquet at 6:00 P.M. - Registration REQUIRED (Dance Included)... \$22.00

A.A. Main Speaker at 7:30 P.M. - John C.- Wonder Lake, IL

Dance at 9:00 P.M. (Dance Only No Registration Required)... \$5.00

(Dance Music Provided By Wildefire)

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE BANQUET IS MARCH 1st

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 NIA SPRING ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

Hosted by Northern Illinois Area Districts 20, 22 & 61

PARTICIPATION: The Key to Recovery

MARCH 27th, 28th & 29th

PHEASANT RUN RESORT

4051 EAST MAIN STREET (RT. 61)

ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

**AA Speakers--Al-Anon—Speakers—Alateen Speaker—Alcathon—Workshops/Panels
Literature—Archives—Banquet—Dance—Ice Cream Social**

Conference Fee: \$20.00*

Banquet Fee: \$30.00

(must be registered for Conference to attend)

Rooms Available for \$99.00+tax per night.

Call Pheasant Run Resort (630)584-6300 & mention NIA Conference.

Get a room...Enjoy the full experience of the Conference

See flyer for Mail-In Registration form-Deadline: March 19, 2015

More Info & online registration available: www.niaspringconference.com

Conference Co-Chairs: Joe M. (847) 401-2595 or John G. (630) 204-4661

*(*There is no registration fee for attending only the Spring Assembly.)*

Districts 10 & 12

Spring Breakfast

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Bonnie Brook Country Club

2800 N Lewis Ave — Waukegan, IL

Cost: \$16.00

Coffee: 8 a.m. Breakfast: 9 a.m.

Speaker: To Be Announced

Tickets are available through your GRS or call:

Terry V. 847-650-2251 - Dana T. 847-322-5256



BUNCH OF NUTS

Big Book Study Group



4th Annual Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 4 pm-8 pm

St. Mark's Church in Waukegan, IL

Corner of Delany & Yorkhouse Rds

SPEAKER: Marcia S. (NIA 20 former Delegate)

Pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread, and more!

Door Prizes / 50-50 Raffle

Please Bring a Dessert to Pass.

All this is free for Nuttin'

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

Step Study

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
St. Mark's Church
Yorkhouse & Delany Rd., Wkgn.

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 NEEDED
12 STEP WORK

St. Therese Psych Unit Meeting: Sunday 10 am & Tues 7 pm
Sponsor Panel-ATP: 1st & 3rd Saturdays 12:45-2pm
Drug Court: 1:30 pm Fridays Court 202
Mental Health Court: 9:00 am Mondays Court 220
Veterans Court: 1st & 3rd Friday, 9:00 am Court 220
SAP: SAP Bldg. 1:00 pm Thursdays
Detox: ATP 7:30 pm Wednesday
For Info Contact: Frank M.@ 847-336-2775

New Spanish Speaking AA Meeting

Where: Alano Club of Waukegan 2419 Washington St, Wkgn IL
When: Every Tues morning, 10 am & every Thurs night, 8 pm
There are two new Spanish Speaking Groups of the Alano Club of Waukegan. Please, let's do our part by reaching out to the large Latin Community & help carry the message to them. Questions? Call: Pete O. at 1-224-381-9992 or Jaime G at 1-224-861-

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
Northern Illinois Area 20 - District 12: P.O. Box 8882 - Waukegan, Illinois 60079-8882

Dist 12 Monthly Open Speaker Breakfast
1st Sun Monthly—Breakfast 8:30am

Victory Mem Hospital—Cafeteria, Wkgn,
Adults \$7—Children 6-12 \$3, 5& under free
March Speaker: Janette

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	Ken C.	847-848-4855		Paul P.	224-280-0356	paulperini@att.net
Secretary	Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	bonnieloripink@gmail.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Ron K.	847-623-0953	ronkd12@att.net	Sue D,	847-502-1007	susie12956@aol.com
Answering Service	Berto G.	224-280-5235		OPEN		
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	847-336-2775		Francis K.	847-744-0793	
Corrections Grapevine	Pete O.	847-662-8737	Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com	Lavonne G.	224-440-2834	lavonnegreen60@gmail.com
Public Information	OPEN			OPEN		
Literature	OPEN			OPEN		
Newsletter	Hazel B	847-922-0649	mrhafamily@gmail.com	Nick P.	847-872-6727	nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net
Directory	Martin C.	773-870-4010	clausenmartin@aol.com	OPEN		
Archive	John M.		Contact through District 12 Website	OPEN		
Special Events	Terry V.	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	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	Brian M.	847-736-0403	brianm959@yahoo.com