

District 12 Newsletter

November 2016

Step Eleven

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.”



THE MYSTERY OF MEDITATION

MORE than anything, I wanted to honestly take the Eleventh Step, not pretend I had taken the Eleventh Step. By that I mean I wanted to follow the sentence introducing Step Eleven in the Big Book, which states, "Step Eleven suggests prayer and meditation." It does not tell me, "Step Eleven suggests prayer and meditation, if you feel like it, and it's convenient and easy . . ."

Prayer, even when I am being honest, is simply prayer. It is my asking. Meditation for me seems to be a grownup version of prayer, the mature of offering of myself, without need or agenda, and the willingness to listen to an answer, even if the answer is silence. For this alcoholic, meditation is all about growing up; it is about new knowledge and new ideas. Meditation for me is a venture into the unknown, a gamble with my pride, a true leap into powerlessness.

"Being still inexperienced and just having made conscious contact," as the Big Book says, I now found myself taking a huge risk and walking into the experience of attending a new Eleventh Step meditation meeting. No one chanted. Everyone sat normally in a chair. It was a closed AA meeting for men and women. We read the Eleventh Step in the Big Book out loud. Suggestions about meditation from the essay about the Eleventh Step in the "Twelve and Twelve" were read. We meditated silently for 20 minutes. And then we shared our meditation experience. Just like our Step work, some of us were on Step One in meditation; some carried experience and confidence that they willingly shared. We were all equals. The same AA principles applied in our meditation meeting that apply in any other AA meeting: new ideas, new knowledge, willingness, patience, perseverance, discipline, honesty and open-mindedness. It is the same way I live my life in sobriety, the same way I work for conscious contact, the same way I work to fit myself to be of maximum service to my creator.

This alcoholic has work to do. Meditation with my fellow drunks is an experience unlike any other. I love taking a chance that even the smallest amount of change might allow my Higher Power access to my heart and mind. I love the risk of failing in meditation. I love the risk of succeeding in meditation. I love the risk of not knowing the difference. I love the risk of being lost and sober in completely new territory. The results are worth all those risks, and more. Now I can honestly say I am living the Eleventh Step as our founders felt we ought to.

Anonymous, Staunton, VA

Reprinted from AA Grapevine

Happy Thanksgiving

AA Northern Illinois Area 20

Big Book Conference

"A Design for Living"

Guest Speakers: Bob B. St. Paul, MN — Carleen L. Helena, MT

Saturday October 29, 2016

9:00 am to 4:00 pm — Registration Begins at 8:00 am

Wheaton Bible Church

27W500 North Avenue, West Chicago, Illinois 60185

For Questions and Volunteer Opportunities Contact:
niabigbookconference@gmail.com or Jason at 312.834.1819

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR IN A NUT SHELL!

Date	Event
Saturday Oct. 29th	23rd Annual NIA Big Book Conference, "A Design for Living" Host: District 62 Wheaton Bible Church, 27W500 North Avenue, West Chicago, IL 60185 Speakers: Bob B. from St. Paul, MN and Carleen L. from Helena, MT Event runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Registration at 8:00 am
Saturday Nov. 5th	Day by Day Club Anniversary Dinner Potluck Dinner @ 7:00pm, Open Speaker @ 8:00pm Galilei Korean United Church, 1696 McGovern @ Laurel, Highland Park, IL Behind the old Day by Day Club
Saturday Dec. 10th	Winter Assembly at the Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL Registration 8:00 a.m., Meeting 9:00 a.m., Lunch will be available All GSR's should attend; All A.A. Members are welcome
Sunday Dec. 11th	Annual District 12 Christmas Party Gurnee Community Church, 4555 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee Coffee @ 2:00pm, Speaker @ 3:00pm, Dinner @ 4:00pm Children under 10 years of age will receive a present from Santa. Please bring a desert to pass.

District 12 Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11th

Gurnee Community Church
4555 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee

Coffee @ 2:00pm
Speaker @ 3:00pm
Dinner @ 4:00pm

Children under 10 years of age
will receive a present from Santa.

Please bring a desert to pass.

Day by Day Club
Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, November 5th

Potluck Dinner @ 7:00pm
Open Speaker @ 8:00pm

Galilei Korean United Church
1696 McGovern @ Laurel
Highland Park, IL
Behind the old Day by Day Club

New "xy" Meeting

An all men's open discussion meeting

Tuesdays at 8:00pm

Waukegan Alano Club

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 12 STEP WORK

Sponsor Panel: ATP 1 st & 3rd Saturday 12:45-2pm

Back to Basics: ATP 2nd & 4th Saturday 12:45-2pm

Drug Court: 1:30pm Wednesday Court 204

Mental Health Court: 9:00am Monday Court 220

Veterans Court: 9:00am Friday Court 201

Detox: ATP 7:30pm Wednesday, 2:00pm & 7:00pm Sunday

For Info Contact: Frank M. @ 224-730-3045

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: Les 847-336-3275

Email copy of forms to: paulperini@att.net

Help Needed at Vista West Psyc Ward Meeting

Meetings are Tuesday Evening & Sunday Morning

Come to the Vista West Cafeteria at 7:00pm on Tuesday to find out the times and procedures for the Sunday meeting

A.A. Contacts

General Service Office:

<http://www.aa.org>

Northern Illinois Area 20:

<http://www.aa-nia.org>

District 12 Website:

<http://www.dist12.aa-nia.org>

District 12 Answering Service:

847-623-9660

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

Newsletter Submissions should be sent to Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com

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	Alter-nate	Phone	Email
DCM	Ken C..	847-693-0970	kenc693@yahoo.com	Paul P.	847-849-3928	paulperini@att.net
Secretary	Kris M.	224-627-9768	kris.miller30@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Dave H.	224-627-5153	dhall711@att.net	OPEN		
Answering Service	Steve N	847-623-5076	stephenrordstrom@gmail.com	Byron W.	847-744-2325	
Archive	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat609@gmail.com	Roy K.	847-293-4616	
Bridging the Gap	Ray L.	847-917-6442	r.leeper@sbcglobal.net	OPEN		
Corrections	Frank M.	224-730-3045	aboutme615@gmail.com	Les M.	847-336-3275	
CPC / Treatment	Bill W.	224-456-9455	whwoolridge@msn.com	Dick M.	847-404-3713.	dick71308@ameritech.net
Directory	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	OPEN		
Grapevine	Jackie S	224-247-8963	spencerjackie61@yahoo.com	Pete O.	224-381-9992	peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com
Literature	John M..		Contact thru District 12 Website	OPEN		
Newsletter	Mike H.	847-848-4855	dist12.newsletter@gmail.com	Jackie R.	224-610-6646	jacquelinea1241@gmail.com
Public Information	Francis K.	847-505-2555		OPEN		
Special Events	Terry V.	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Webmaster	Danny K.	224-440-2024	kratovild@gmail.com	Tracie J.	847-847-9201	tracie_jahnke@yahoo.com