

# District 12 Newsletter

## April 2019

### Step 4

### Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves



Stick and stay,  
make the miracle a reality.

This is a program of ACTION, it takes work to succeed in this wonderful program.

It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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

### MY FIRST NINETY DAYS OF SOBRIETY

My journey into sobriety began while I was sitting in jail for my 5<sup>th</sup> DUI. My bond was set at \$500,000 which meant I needed to come up with \$50,000 to get out. My family had enough of my B.S. so I had little hope of getting help from them. My sister, however, gave me a Big Book and since I had some time on my hands, I decided to read it. While reading Bill's story, it hit me that I may be an alcoholic and addict. Up until that point, I just thought I had bad luck. My brother offered to help me if I went to in-patient treatment and I agreed to go. I realized that I knew nothing about being or getting sober but I was willing to make the most of my time there.

In treatment they talked about sponsorship. They said to look for someone that had something you wanted and to whom you could relate. Three men came to share their story and how they got sober. One of them stood out to me. He seemed like a rough, no-nonsense, straight shooter who was in the construction business. I thought I would not be able to bullshit him, which I was a master at. I asked him to be my sponsor and he accepted. This was a big step for me because I did not like asking for help but I knew I really needed it.

My new sponsor and I would meet and he introduced me to the 12 steps of A.A. To my amazement he started with step one. By sharing his story, I was able to share mine. He helped me to see how powerless I was over alcohol and drugs and how unmanageable my life had become. I had truly accepted and surrendered to my disease. I was beaten, which I did not like, but it was a fact. He would always start and end our meetings with a prayer. He asked me about faith in a higher power and I wasn't really sure how I felt.

He told me faith was a fancy word for trust and that God would help me if I got out of his way and let him. That night I got down on my knees and asked that the obsession be taken away and to help me stay sober. I now have over 11 years of sobriety and the compulsion to drink and use has been lifted.

We then began to discuss my character defects of dishonesty, selfishness, thievery, blame and self-pity. That these were the opposite of God's will for me. He told me to think of others before myself, which I didn't get but he said in time I would. I am now getting out of treatment and I am ready. My sponsor told me the only thing that would be different when I got out is me and that everything else would be the same. I was told to go to a meeting every day, to get a phone number from at least one man at the meeting and to call my sponsor after the meeting to tell him what I got out of it. He gave me a "24 Hour a Day" book and told me to read it every morning. He also told me to volunteer to clean up after the meeting. I was introduced to the Serenity Prayer and to use it when disturbed. I was told to stay in the day and that is all I had to worry about. So I am trying to all this stuff and not liking the meetings or the people in them. I thought the fun was over. I especially did not like this one particular guy. My sponsor told me to pray for him every day for two weeks. You can imagine how the prayers began but they did get better.

I remember I was in a bad way after one of my meetings so I called my sponsor. I will never forget his response. He called me a whiny bitch and told me I did not even know what I wanted. He told me to write it down and to call him back. "Click" I spent a half hour writing down all this stuff. I called him back and he told me to crumple my list and to write down what I needed. "Click" I wanted to hurt him but after another 30 minutes I called him back. "Crumple it up and throw it in the trash and write down what you have." Click" If I could have gotten my hands on him I would have hurt him real bad. But I started writing and within a couple of minutes I realized I did not have it so bad. My first example of gratitude.

I began to pray for other people and for the first time in my life I knew peace. I still didn't understand stuff but I was at peace. Life wasn't so bad.

If you are a newcomer and reading this, get a sponsor, go to meetings and get involved. It will change your life.

If I can do it, believe me, so can you.

Davis K.

## CALENDAR IN A NUT SHELL

Date	Event
Sun, April 7, 8:00am – 11:30am	Districts 10 & 12 Spring Breakfast Bonnie Brook Golf Course @ 2800 N. Lewis, Waukegan, IL 60085 Fellowship & Coffee – 8:00 am Breakfast Buffet starts at 9:00 am Speaker: Colleen M starts at 10:00 am Tickets \$18.00 Opportunities for service work
Apr 13 @ 8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Spring Committee Meeting @ Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Sat, April 13, 8am – 3pm	Tools of recovery spring CODA conference 2019 8354 W Foster Ave, Norridge, IL 60706 8-9registration breakfast 9-3 conference Hosted by Illinois CODA intergroup \$35 at the door
Sat, May 4, 8am – 4pm	Pre GSC workshop Lord of Life Lutheran Church @ 40W605 IL Route 38 LaFox IL 60119

### District 12- Business/GSR Meeting

**WHERE: Alano Club of Waukegan  
2419 Washington St. Waukegan, IL 60085**

**WHEN: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month**

**TIME: 4:00 pm**

**Want to be Published? - Send your articles to:**

**[Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com)**

Deadline for the May issue is April 16th

**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

**Tuesday night recovery group has moved to a new location.**

**Waukegan Alano Club**

**7pm every Tuesday**

**There are no longer any meetings at St theres hospital as of now!**

**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 611

**Mental Health Court:** 9:00am Monday Court 220

**Veterans Court:** 9:00am Friday Court 611

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

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

**Mailing Addresses for Donations**

General Service Office: PO Box 459 Grand Central Station,  
 New York, NY 10163  
 Northern Illinois Area 20 Ltd PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL  
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**A.A. Contacts**

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 District 12 Answering Service: 847-623-9660  
 Northern IL Area 20 - District 12: P.O. Box 8882, Waukegan, IL 60079-8882  
 Newsletter Submissions: [Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com)

**District 12 Officers (Confidential – this information is for A.A. use only)**

Please contact an officer if you are interest in an OPEN position.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
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