

August 2022



District 12 Newsletter

Support your District:

Please mail checks to:

NIA District 12

PO Box 8882

Waukegan, IL 60079

Checks payable to:

NIA District 12

or donate online

using PayPal at

www.aadistrict12.com

Next District Meeting

August 21st at

4-5pm

at the Waukegan

Alano Club with a

3 pm GSR meeting

ALL are welcome.

District chairs and

District 12 GSR's

encouraged to attend.

Contact your DCM,

Renita D.

for Zoom logins

mommydearest.rd@

gmail.com

Step 8: "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

Tradition 8: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Concept 8: "The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of the entities." (Short form.. summary would be: the trustees are the referees of policy and money for all A.A.)



We have many open positions and need alternates for nearly all our positions! To better serve our district, representation from all our clubs and meeting locations would be appreciated. All General Service Representatives (GSRs) should attend our monthly GSR and district meetings to keep their meeting up to date with our district events, efforts, and goals. District 12 meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm with a GSR meetings at 3:00. Meetings are held at the Waukegan Alano Club at 2419 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL. Please consider participating at the District level ☺

Tradition 8 Checklist

1. Does my own behavior accurately mirror the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I try to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. Do I know where my local meeting directory comes from?
7. In my own AA life, have I had any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
8. Have I read the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? How about the pamphlet "A.A. Tradition—How It Developed".
9. Can my group rely on me to fulfill my service responsibilities without someone checking on me?

Upcoming Events**

Live and Let Live Summer Bash

Sunday, July 24th 12 pm- 5:00 pm
Bowen Park- Waukegan, IL
Live Music, Dunk-a-drunk, food
Bring a Dish if you can

ZB Alano Club- Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 30th
Food at 1:00, Speaker at 3:00
Winthrop Harbor, IL
Hotdogs/hamburgers. Bring a dish

The Drunk Squad Summer Alcathon

Sunday, August 7th at 12:00pm- 5:00 pm
Waukegan Alano Club

2022 State and East Central Regional Conference

August 12th-14th
Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL. 
AA, Alanon & GSO speakers
Banquet and Dance
ASL and Spanish Translation
<http://www.aa-nia.org/state/>

35th Annual Wolf River Camping Trip

August 12th-14th
Bear Paw Campground
White Lake, WI
Reservations required

Green Lake Round-up

August 19th-21st
Green Lake Conference Center
Green Lake, WI
greenlakeroundupwi@gmail.com

Waukegan Alano Club Picnic

August 28th 12:00- 5:00 pm
Bowen Park- Waukegan, IL
Live band, raffle, food (Bring a dish)

McHenry Soberfest

November 18th-20th
Grand Geneva- Lk Geneva, WI
Registration and Resort Reservations are open
<http://www.soberfest.org/> 

Open Speaker Meeting

Waukegan Alano Club
Every Saturday at 8:00 pm.
In person and Zoom
Zoom ID: 865 2712 0396
Password: 465866

New Meetings at the ZB Alano Club

Big Book Study- Sundays at 6:00 pm
Women's Meeting-Thurs. at 6:00 pm

Online meeting directory:

<https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings>

** Events may be hosted by private entities



25th Annual Life's a Beach Women's Meeting

Saturday, August 27th
Fellowship at 4:30, Speaker at 5:30
Bring a chair and a dish/ dessert to pass
North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, IL
In case of rain, we will gather at the ZB Alano Club.

Try the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Show. Super fun, free and only 30 minutes an episode. <https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

Please support our ongoing need for content

You may submit your work the following ways:

Email: district12newsletter@yahoo.com

Mail: NIA District 12, PO Box 8882, Waukegan, IL 60079

In-person drop off: Waukegan Alano (coffee bar safe)

Handwritten submissions gratefully accepted.

8th Step – Made a list of all persons we have harmed and become willing to make amends to them all

When I first reached this step, I was around 1 year sober. I was told to make this list by my sponsor. When I sat down to write this it was pretty small, thank GOD. I was a stay-at-home drinker. I never went to the bar, and I had no drug dealers, since I did not do drugs. My list consisted of my husband, parents, children, sister, and nephews. So, when I made this list, I had three (3) columns. Yes, maybe, and no way in hell. When I showed this to my sponsor, she proceeded to number them and made one list.

Well, I did not like this let me tell you. #1 was my father and the last person I wanted to make amends to. I am not sure why exactly, I guess it was the shame and letting my father down. I did the amends in order like I was instructed to do. Most of the amends were received very well except for my ex-husband and I don't blame him. I had to write a letter to him. When he received it, he let me two children read it. I was mad about that since they were only 9 and 12 years old. I had thought it was between him and I but it wasn't. He never forgave me. I had left him and my children for Alcohol. It was more important than anything else in my life. Most people in my life said "Thank God and Keep Sober". My children had to be and still are a living amends.

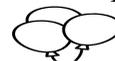
After many years and working these steps over and over I can do a 10th step on a daily basis. I can admit when I am wrong and say I'm sorry. That is huge for me. I was a person who never did anything wrong in my twisted mind. Today I can laugh at that and that is a gift of the program.

Laura J- Gurnee, IL

** Laura frequently submits content for the newsletter her service is valued!

Thank you to everyone that made our District 12 picnic a success.
Kudos to all the cooked, brought a dish, sold tickets, and cleaned up.

Teamwork makes the dream work & Service is the secret!



Step 8 Prayer

God, please remove my fears
and show me your truth. Show
me ALL the harms I have
caused with my behavior.

Lord, make me willing to make
amends to one and all. Amen

AA (Big Book), p. 76



What can I surrender in step 8?

1. Fear of telling the truth...
2. My need to point out "their" part...
3. Fear of the outcome.

The one thing I need to know:

An apology is NOT the same as an
amends. (Retrieved from: <https://takethe12.org/s8/>)

Where is step 8 in our literature?

Big Book p. 76-84
(Directions on p. 76, paragraph 3)
12 x 12 p. 77-82

"Faith without works is dead"

The funny thing about anniversaries...

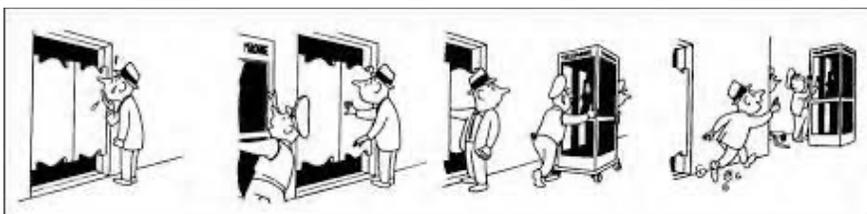
A.A. anniversaries can be an emotional time for this alcoholic. Early on, I would look forward to an anniversary like a child at Christmas. I would look forward to the big announcement at my homegroup, the roar of celebration and witty one-liners from the peanut gallery. I'd go to extra meetings during anniversary week to share my glee and accomplishment. My parents deliver well-thought-out talks capsulating their pride and respect for the person I am today would consistently bring me to tears. I love my anniversary more than my birthday and I celebrate like my sobriety is a team sport because it is. Believe me- it still takes a village...

I still look forward to anniversaries and celebrate however, there is a grey side to that special day. Am I the only alcoholic that experiences a bit of "pre-anniversary funk"? When I hit double digits, the large number of years was beyond my belief and almost scary to think about how much time had passed between my last drink. I became concerned about that space while watching others fall out of love with A.A. When 15, then 20 years arrived, I judged myself with more rigor. The questions I'd include in my 10th Step had motives to gauge my success as a sober person. I'd ponder- if I had accomplished enough to be enough, walked away when I should have stayed, did I hold up my end in relationships or was I living the ideals I speak about in meetings. The question that seemed to cast the greatest shadow was about my impact on the newcomer. I remember sitting in meetings as a judgy, fresh newbie and someone would announce a big year anniversary. Sometimes I'd think "god I wish one day, I had what they had". Then someone else would announce their anniversary and I'd think "if that's 20 years sober, I'll pass". I ask myself hard questions at anniversary time about how many newcomers I welcomed, did I share authentically from MY experience not my wished experienced, did I self-report shortcomings authentically/ openly, how was I of service, when did I decline opportunities to be of service, did I invite others to be of service. These questions and ones similar are my barometer of my emotional sobriety as it is linked to my service as a member of AA.

My 20th year in A.A. is nearing a close and I am on the cusp of turning 21. I know not to celebrate even a day early. I was raised never to announce an anniversary early, don't get up during a meeting and listen to every part of every reading every meeting silently. I read what I was told to read eventually, and I found people I can talk to about the things meetings shouldn't bare. I am grateful to God, A.A. and my family. I am mindful that anniversaries aren't all joy but, bittersweet with some misgivings. Luckily for us, it's one day at a time and I have the opportunity to leave my bad parts of self in the past and live intentionally today.

If you're new, please know no number of years sobriety makes a perfect person, it just means we had more days to practice living sober. For the middle-comer or old-timer, enjoy the journey, recognize your victories, love without expectation, and reach out a lot. You're important too.

Colleen M.- Waukegan, IL



Would you like your event listed
in the newsletter?



Please email
District12newsletter@yahoo.com

Mailing Addresses for Donations:

NIA District 12
 PO Box 8882,
 Waukegan, IL 60079-8882

Or donate using PayPal at

www.aadistrict12.com

General Service Office Contributions (Updated)

PO Box 2407 James A Farley Station
 New York, New York 10116-2407

Northern Illinois Area 20 Ltd:

PO Box 524,
 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524

Helpful Links:

www.aadistrict12.com

<https://district10nia.org/>

www.aa-nia.org

www.aa.org

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide

www.aagrapevine.org

Online Meetings:

<https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings>

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

Please email district12newsletter@yahoo.com with any questions or directory updates.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Renita D.	████████	████████████████	Francelia K.	████████	████████████████
Secretary	Darlene F.	████████	████████████████	Billy S.	████████	████████████████
Treasurer	Jackie S	████████	████████████████	Laura J.	████████	████████████████
Answering Service	Betty		████████████████	OPEN		
Archive	Roy K.	████████	████████████████			
Bridging the Gap	Julius			Karen F	████████	████████████████
Corrections						
CPC / Treatment	Dick M.	████████	████████████████	Robert B	████████	████████████████
Directory	Danielle W.	████████	████████████████	OPEN		
Grapevine				OPEN		
Literature	Ken C.	████████	████████████████	OPEN		
Newsletter	Colleen M	████████	district12newsletter@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	Open			OPEN		
Special Events	Gimel T.	████████	████████████████	OPEN		
Webmaster	Danny K	████████	████████████████	Thadonia S.	████████	████████████████

Interested in an open position?

Please attend the monthly District meeting for more information.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are of the author and do not reflect directly upon Alcoholics Anonymous, District 12 or the officers.