

District 12 Newsletter

February 2014

Step Two

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”



Step Two: I Didn't Drink And I Didn't Run

When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous, all I wanted was to drink a little less. I did not want to find God, get spiritual, become a better person, or stop drinking. I did not have the power to change anything about my drinking, however. That's why I decided to try AA. That is also the summary of my twenty-five year experience with Step One.

Step Two baffled me. I understood all of the words in the Step but could not comprehend how or why any benevolent force would ever have any connection with me. I had no real religious background, and what I did know made me skeptical. I was taught by my parents, teachers, and popular thought that I could control my destiny and achieve whatever I wanted--if I was willing to work hard enough. If I wanted something done, I should do it myself, they told me. There was no room for the divine in the picture I developed of the world. In fact, there wasn't room for anything or anyone but me.

My alcoholism helped me fail at everything important to me. I failed to achieve the status and recognition I thought was due me in my profession. I withdrew from my family. I had no close relationships--drinking buddies were the best I could do. Worst of all, I felt the emptiness that many of us know. Life had no meaning for me. I had nothing to connect with, nothing to engage me, nothing to make my life worth living. This is the state I found myself in when I joined AA, a condition that turned out to be fortunate because it made me willing to consider ideas that I otherwise would have rejected immediately.

In the beginning, all I could do was not drink and not run away. When I listened to people talk about God at meetings, I didn't drink and I didn't run away. When I heard discussions at meetings about how God--or a higher power, or something--had come into the lives of members and done for them what they could not do for themselves, I didn't drink and didn't run away. I thought it was all nonsense but was afraid to dismiss it entirely. I had been beaten up enough to know that I would die if I drank again.

Because I did not drink and did not run away, I heard a lot of ideas about a power greater than myself that I considered--in spite of myself. I also saw that other alcoholics, who had been as desperate as I was, had stopped drinking and, as a result, their lives had changed. Even if I did not identify with whatever power they said worked for them, I saw that something had happened to them. This gave me just enough hope to keep coming back to one more meeting, to listen to one more story, and to talk to one more alcoholic. Because this program did not dictate the name, size, shape, or color of the power that works here, I was forced to find my own. My experience has been a gradual one.

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It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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

But little by little, over months and years, my thinking about other people changed. I started seeing them less in relation to myself--more than or less than me, useful or useless to me, or doing something to me--and more as people struggling just like I was to find a way to live. I lost many fears and some insecurities, and that has made it possible for me to do things, say things, and go places I never would have considered. I can now think about something other than myself, and I don't complain that life is not interesting or engaging.

In those instances when I give up my idea of how something should work, my life changes in a profound and wonderful way. The most powerful example, is my marriage. It is nothing like I thought it should be, and yet it works quite well. When something really difficult has happened in sobriety--despite my feelings of grief or loss or hurt--I have behaved in a way that made me feel good about myself and at peace with the outcome.

God is the name I call this power I have found, because that is the easiest way to express it to other people. If pressed to describe it, I say that I have found a power greater than myself that enables me to get out of myself and experience that rare and wonderful miracle of change.

Nancy C.

Coral Gables, Florida

AA Grapevine—February 2007 Vol. 63 No. 9

AA in Eight Words:

***Quit drinking.
Trust God.
Clean house.
Help others.***

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Tradition Two (Long Form)

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants: they do not govern.”

-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



BUNCH O NUTS

ST MARKS LUTHERN CHURCH

***YORKHOUSE
AND
DELANY***

***7 PM
TUESDAYS***

SEE YOU THERE!

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 NIA SPRING ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

Hosted by Northern Illinois Area Districts 10, 11 & 12

Living in Ten, Eleven & Twelve

MARCH 28th, 29th & 30th

**HOLIDAY INN GURNEE
CONVENTION CENTER
6161 W. GRAND AVE.
GURNEE, IL 60031**

Located 1/2 mile west of 94 on south side of Grand Ave.
Rt. 132

**AA Speakers * Al-Anon Speakers * Alateen Speaker
* Alcathon * Workshops/Panels * Literature * Archives**

*** Banquet * Dance * Ice Cream Social**
(must be registered for Conference to attend dance)

**More Information and online registration (PayPal only)
is available at: www.niaspringconference.com**

Women's A.A. Meeting

Monday 6:00 pm
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

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 - ATP

1st and 3rd Saturdays 12:45 til 2 pm

Drug Court

1:30 pm Fridays Court 202

Mental Health Court

9:00 am Mondays Court 220

Veterans Court

3rd Friday at 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

Step Study

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

The District 12 Open Speaker Breakfast

Victory Hospital
(also known as Vista Medical Center East)
Cost: \$7.00
Start time is 8:30 AM
1st Sunday of every month

I'M NOT DIFFERENT

FEBRUARY 19

In the beginning, it was four whole years before A.A. brought permanent sobriety to even one alcoholic woman. Like the "high bottoms," the women said they were different; . . . The Skid-Rower said he was different . . . so did the artists and the professional people, the rich, the poor, the religious, the agnostic, the Indians and the Eskimos, the veterans, and the prisoners. . . . nowadays all of these, and legions more, soberly talk about how very much alike all of us alcoholics are when we admit that the chips are finally down. **AS BILL SEES IT, p. 24**

I cannot consider myself "different" in A.A.; if I do I isolate myself from others and from contact with my Higher Power. If I feel isolated in A.A., it is not something for which others are responsible. It is something I've created by feeling I'm "different" in some way. Today I practice being just another alcoholic in the worldwide Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Daily Reflections - ©1990 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. - p. 58

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

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	Mike H.	847-848-4855	Mike.henneberry@gmail.com	OPEN		
Secretary	Terry V.	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Ron K.	847-623-0953	crkytasaari@att.net	Sue D,	847-502-1007	susie12956@aol.com
Answering Service	Berto G.	224-280-5235		Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	bonniepetterec@gmail.com
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	847-336-2775		Francis K.	847-744-0793	
Corrections	Pete O.	847-662-8737	Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com	Lavonne G.	224-538-0228	lavonnegreen60@gmail.com
Grapevine	James T.	224-730-2681	JamesT1956@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	OPEN			OPEN		
Literature	John M.		Contact through District 12 Website	OPEN		
Newsletter	Felicia H.	224-717-2424	felicia2657@gmail.com	Nick P.	847-872-6727	nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net
Directory	Martin C.	773-870-4010	claussenmartin@aol.com	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	Brian M.	847-736-0403	brianm959@yahoo.com