

District 12 Newsletter

March 2014

Step Three

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

Step Three: Hang Gliding

Leaping with faith



When I came into AA after twenty-four years of daily drinking, I was ready for a new way of life. My "treatment" was two to three meetings a day at "The Divine Dump" in San Francisco, a long-time meeting place in a neighborhood full of bars and funeral homes. The old-timers would point at these establishments and tell us, "If you don't like it here, try it out there."

For the first three months, I practiced the "ism"--I sponsored myself. But I did ask for help through the emotional storms of early sobriety from the people saw every day at the meetings. The Steps that everyone spoke about, which hung crookedly on the wall, mystified me. My will had always been my higher power, way before I started to drink; drinking simply helped ease the pain of life not going my way.

I was also an agnostic and cynic. The idea of turning my will and my life over to something other than my own efforts at control was an action that I simply could not imagine. But I wanted this new way of life desperately, so I listened closely to what people had to say in meetings about their experience of coming to believe. Initially, I was repelled by those who talked about God, but they had a joy and a calm that I wanted.

An important part of my coming to believe was spending time at the ocean, where I could see a power greater than myself in action. Several times a week, I would go out to an abandoned WW II fort situated on a bluff overlooking the beach. It was an area for hang gliders, and I'd always enjoyed watching them sail by as I walked along the cliffs and down to the beach. I'd always yearned for the freedom that flight represented. I even had thirty hours of flight logged in small, aerobatic planes before giving it up, as I did with many pursuits during my drinking. As part of my training, I'd learned that the impact of alcohol increases as one ascends into the air, so I usually drank before I flew, to latch on to that thrill.

One day out at the fort, as I was struggling with how to work the Third Step, I found myself watching the hang gliders as they got ready to launch themselves. They lumbered up to the take-off spot with this heavy equipment on their backs, and then simply stepped into space from this very small spit of sand on the edge of a cliff. This was an intermediate skills area, so everyone had a certain expertise with the principles of aerodynamics. They knew what to do when they left the ground and moved into the air. A week before, however, a man had hesitated as he took off, and he'd fallen down the cliff and died, breaking his neck.

Hearing this story opened up the path to the Third Step for me. I had learned the principles of AA flight from Steps One and Two. I had seen how halfway measures could lead me out of the program to certain death. What I had to do was stand on the edge of the unknown, have faith in the Steps and my teachers in the meetings, and let go--step with both feet into this terrifying new realm of surrender, and trust that a power greater than myself, which I was only coming to understand, would carry me. If I held back, trying to keep one foot in the old realm, I'd fall out of the program. I had to abandon myself absolutely to the principles of the new dimension.

Bette-B.B.

Omaha, Nebraska

A.A. Grapevine, March 2005 - Vol. 61 No. 10

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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....

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Tradition Three (Long Form)

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

MARCH MADNESS

Membership Drive

March 8th, 2014

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Waukegan Alano Club

“We Not A Glum Lot”

Join Us Many Benefits

\$8.00 Monthly, \$40.00 Semi-Annual \$75.00 Yearly

Food, Dancing, ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring: LIVE BAND

COVER: \$5.00

3rd ANNUAL

(BUT WE'VE BEEN AROUND 9 YEARS)

BUNCH-O-NUTS **ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Saturday, April 26, 2014

4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M

**ST MARK'S CHURCH in WADSWORTH,
IL**

CORNER OF DELANEY & YORKHOUSE

SPEAKER: Denny M.

Guest Speaker: Rich H. - Past Delegate

**Pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread, and more
DOOR PRIZES**

**FOOD-FUN-FELLOWSHIP
BRING A DESSERT TO PASS**

ALL THIS IS FREE FOR NUTTIN'

VETERANS MEETING NEEDS SUPPORT

Tuesday 8:00 P.M.

**Closed Meeting of
Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Captain James A. Lovell
Federal Health Care Center
3001 N. Green Bay Rd.
North Chicago, IL 60064
Building 66**

**Please do service work by attending
meeting or by speaking, any questions
ask Nick: 208-3543**

**We meet for Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Full Moon Restaurant 1300 Skokie Hwy (41)
Lake Bluff, IL
Or at 7:45 P.M. for a caravan to the meeting**

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**

Conference Fee: \$20.00

Banquet Fee: \$35.00

(must be registered for Conference to attend)

Rooms Available for \$89.00 per night

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

**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

Or LaVonne 224-440-2834

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

1st and 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

**32nd ANNUAL
A.A., AL-ANON, ALATEEN
TRI-COUNTY MINI-CONFERENCE
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE
U.A.W. HALL 3615 WASHINGTON ROAD
KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53144
SATURDAY MARCH 22nd 2014**

**Registration Opens at 8:00 A.M.
Kick-Off at 9:00 A.M.**

**Banquet at 6:00 P.M. - Registration REQUIRED (Dance Included)... \$22.00
A.A. Main Speaker at 7:30 P.M. - Kelli H. Racine WI
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

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	Paul P.	224-280-0356	paulperini@att.net
Secretary	Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	bonnieloripink@gmail.com	OPEN		
Treasurer	Ron K.	847-623-0953	ronkdist12@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	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	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