

District 12 Newsletter

November 2014

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.”



Square Peg, Round Hole Step Eleven

I was blessed to embrace Step One without reservations from the beginning. But then I stalled, as I wasn't going to do “the God thing.” Like many of us, I'd been raised in church and been at one time quite devout; but over the years and many drinks, I had come to see my faith as misguided. I had exchanged the loving God my parents taught me about for the punishing, sexist, jealous and cruel God that I wanted nothing to do with. I called myself a “seeker,” but I really had no idea where to begin seeking outside of the bottle.

Then I came to AA, took Step One, and made my women's group my Higher Power. This actually worked for me from March to August, when my sponsor decided to start a Sunday morning Eleventh Step meeting. As an early riser, I enthusiastically embraced the idea of a morning meeting, but the Eleventh Step? I whined at her (she still says I am the best whiner she ever met) that I didn't want to do the God thing. She suggested that I get over it. She also suggested that I begin praying to something. Around that time I saw a movie in which one of the characters prays to the “Great Creative Force of the Universe” — I thought I could do that. In fact, in a sense I still do, though I use the word God as a short form.

There were a handful of us at that first meeting. We decided we would keep the meeting simple, just the Preamble and introductions, then on to reading the Big Book from the bottom of page 85 to the end of that chapter. Thus began my spiritual journey in the program.

The first suggestion from those pages that I tried was to say a morning prayer to ask my Higher Power to direct my thoughts and keep them divorced (what a marvelous verb for what we need!) from “self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives.” That was a revelation. Never had I realized that self-pity was the neighborhood where I spent most of my time. As I kept saying that prayer, my awareness emerged: the “you don't know how I suffer/no one wants to help me” mindset slowly receded.

It took me a while to start saying, “thy will be done,” when agitated or doubtful. I can clearly remember the first time this happened. I teach at a university and keep all my grades and attendance records in one small book. One day I could not find it at home or in my paper-strewn office. I often had joked that if it were lost I would have to leave town; but seriously, it would have created enormous difficulties. In full-blown panic, practically in tears, I kept looking over and over again in the same places with no luck. Then finally I just sat down and said. “Thy will be done.” A calm came over me immediately. I knew that whatever the outcome, it would be all right. I reached out and shifted a pile of papers — and there it was.

Continued on Page 2

Step Eleven 1-2

Events & Announcements 2-4

Events & A.A. Contacts 4



Put some Gratitude
in your Attitude!

It Works if you Work
it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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

Step Eleven Continued....

Many times people ask, "How do we know God's will?" Most of us never experience a burning bush talking to us, yet we start to recognize the difference between our will and God's. For me, that became clear in my third year in the program, when I had a chance to spend a week at another university working with someone in my field. There were four professors scheduled to be there, and I knew which one I wanted to study with — - because she was the biggest name. I called and faxed and finagled to get into her sessions but did not understand more than half of what we read and discussed. Then I heard one of the other leaders speak for just an hour and found much to take back to use in my classes. Clearly, my will had cheated me of a more valuable experience. The lesson I learned was that I can recognize that I'm caught up in my will when I desperately struggle to slam a square peg into a round hole. That's the time for me to back off and trust that God's will is far better than mine.

I know I'm not the only person who finds that things keep getting added to my Big Book while I sleep. I'd been in the program many years reading the Eleventh Step every Sunday, when I had an altercation with a student that was more than half my fault. I felt very uncomfortable and, in doing my nightly inventory as described on page 86, I realized that I needed to make amends. I went to my Sunday meeting and rather proudly shared my insight. That's when my friend Ronald pointed out that it says, "After making our review, we ask God's forgiveness and inquire what corrective measures should be taken." Oops! Once again, I had missed an important clause.

Each time this happens, the lesson is to turn my will and my life over to the care of the God of my understanding who knows so much better what needs to be done. As a result of doing this prayer every night, I awaken in the mornings with an "intuitive thought or a decision."

Thanks to reading the Eleventh Step at our meeting every Sunday, the AA program began to make sense to me. I have worked all the Steps, and I am still trying to practice these principles in all my affairs. But it was the part suggesting what I could do for the upcoming 24 hours that led me to my Higher Power and to go deeper into the program. For this alcoholic, who tried for years to discipline herself by making resolutions every January, beginning with "Drink less," and instead finding a God who disciplines me in the most gentle way possible, AA has been a revelation. After 20 years of Sunday spirituality meetings, I can certainly attest that "It works, it really does."

Mary C.
Ellore, S.C.
Grapevine, November 2013

**Clean Air Club
555 Roger Williams Ave
Highland Park, IL**

11th Step Meditation Meeting



Come see what meditation can do for your serenity and your conscious contact with your Higher Power. Join us Wednesdays at 6 pm at the Clean Air Club for an 11th Step Meeting. Read from the 11th Step in the 12 x 12, meditate for 20 minutes and share with the fellowship.

It's an excellent way to learn and bring meditation into your on-going recovery.

TRADITION ELEVEN LONG FORM (12x12 p. 192)

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SPANISH SPEAKING AA MEETING

Where: Alano Club of Waukegan
2419 Washington St. Waukegan, IL 60085
When: Every Thursday Night 8PM starting on the first
Thursday in November 2014
Format: Closed AA Meeting
Topic: Open for Discussion

This is a brand new Spanish Speaking group of the Alano Club of Waukegan. Please let's do our part by reaching out to the Large Latino Community and help carry the message to them.

Questions: Call Pete O. at 1-224-381-9992 or Jaime G. at 1-815-861-3189

Zion Benton Alano Club 60th Anniversary Dinner

**Sunday, November 2, 2014
228 Sheridan Road
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096
847-746-9842**

**1:00 PM -Speaker: Concrete Rick
2:00 PM—Dinner from Ruffalos III**

**Broasted Chicken, Lasagna, Salad,
Bread & Butter, Cake**

Donations to help cover dinner are greatly appreciated.

**Beverages: Soda, Water: \$.75
Coffee: \$.50
50/50 Raffle**

Looking for a Sponsor/Sponsee?

Join us at the
ATP Sponsorship Panel
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 12:45pm
Female sponsors needed!

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 201

Mental Health Court

9:00 am Mondays Court 220

Veterans Court

1st and 3rd Friday at 9:00 am Court 201

SAP

SAP Bldg. 1:00 pm Thursdays

Detox

ATP 7:30 pm Wednesday

For Info Contact: Frank M.@ 847-336-2775

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

GET READY!!!!
25th Annual McHenry's Soberfest

November 21st through 23rd, 2014
Grand Geneva Resort
Lake Geneva, WI

**AA Conference, Banquet, Dance, Alcahons, Panels, Step Workshops, Literature, Archives,
Meditation Room**
Register online: www.soberfest.org

**PLANNING MEETING FOR THE
DISTRICT 12 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

(December 14th)
**WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 24TH — 7:00 PM**
WAUKEGAN ALANO CLUB
2419 WASHINGTON ST.
WAUKEGAN, IL

2014 NIA Big Book Conference

October 25th, 2014
Parkview Community Church
764 St. Charles Rd.
Glen Ellyn, IL
Conference Only: \$13.00
With Lunch: \$20.00

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	OPEN		
Answering Service	Berto G.	224-280-5235		OPEN		
CPC / Treatment	Francis K.	847-744-0793		Frank M.	847-336-2775	
Corrections Grapevine	Pete O. Jeff F.	847-662-8737	Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com Jord732@comcast.net	Lavonne G.	224-440-2834	lavonnegreen60@gmail.com
Public Information	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	Marlene G.	224-545-1495	grubbsmarlene@gmail.com
Literature	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat@juno.com	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		Aaron F.	224-627-8816	4aaronmf@gmail.com
Webmaster	Beth B.	224.522-1676	pollockburke@gmail.com	Brian M.	847-736-0403	brianm959@yahoo.com