

District 12 Newsletter

September 2013

Step Nine

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”



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My Experience With Step Nine

The first person to whom I owed amends was God. God already knew all the pain and suffering I'd created in my life. All by my choice. All by thinking that I knew better than God how to run my life.

The next person to whom I made amends was myself. The Twelve Steps themselves are the amendment process to myself, and I continue striving to live by these principles in all my affairs.

The next group I approached were those who were already dead. I visited graves where possible and admitted the problems I'd helped create in the past relationship. I let these people know, as best I could, that my amends to them would be to continue living the program in all my present and future relationships.

Next, I made amends to the members of my family of origin. A major part of my amends was letting them see my changed attitudes. I didn't have to be in charge anymore. I didn't have to always be right anymore. I let them see my doubts and fears. I shared my emotions and became vulnerable. I let down the defenses I'd held in place for years. I established boundaries for myself and my behavior and communicated those boundaries. I let my family see me living a different kind of life. I let them know I was working a Twelve Step program,

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Tradition Nine (Long Form)

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants on the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

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 Nine—Continued

because for me, this was a safe fact to divulge in my family of origin.

Once these direct amends were done, I turned my list over to God. Part of this step is avoiding further hurt or injury. I decided to leave the matter in God's hands and waited.

Gradually, opportunities to make amends to others on my list presented themselves. The examples are too numerous to list. But because of my willingness to make amends, God took care of bringing about the situations where I could make the amends.

Sometimes, I seek out the people to whom I know I must make immediate amends. For example, if I discover something I have done wrong, I go immediately to the person and seek to make the amends. Sometimes the amends process works. Sometimes, people do not want to forgive or forget, and so, all I can do is offer the amends.

I have not yet made amends to my entire list. Some of the people I do not know how to contact. Some of the people it would clearly be unhealthy to contact, due to circumstances in their lives and mine. I may make amends to them in the same way I made amends to deceased people. I don't know. God will reveal how to do it in time.

Also, through the program, I am continually growing and changing and examining my-self (Step Ten). Along the way, I discover other character flaws in myself or in a past relationship for which I need to make further amends, and do so as I am able.

This step requires much patience—a character trait I need to strengthen as well. Slowly, gently, gradually, I am working Step Nine. And Step Nine is working me, by God's grace and power.

-- *Anonymous*

WILLINGNESS TO GROW

Daily Reflections - ©1990 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. – p. 253

If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on.

AS BILL SEES IT, p.8

Sobriety fills the painful "hole in the soul" that my alcoholism created. Often I feel so physically well that I believe my work is done. However, joy is not just the absence of pain; it is the gift of continued spiritual awakening. Joy comes from ongoing and active study, as well as application of the principles of recovery in my everyday life, and from sharing that experience with others. My Higher Power presents many opportunities for deeper spiritual awakening. I need only to bring into my recovery the willingness to grow. Today I am ready to grow.

A.A.'s Responsibility Statement

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2013 Illinois State AA Conference

August 23-25, 2013

Hosted by Northern Illinois Area, Districts 22 & 23

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

1800 East Golf Road

Schaumburg, IL 60173

AA Speakers, Al-Anon Speakers, Alcahthon, Al-Anon, Alateen, Banquet and Dance

For More Information Contact:

Larry S. 847-702-1952 or Allen J. 630-830-6145

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

17th Annual Life's A Beach Women's Beach Meeting

When: Saturday, August 24, 2013

5:30 P.M. Social Time

7:00 P.M. Speaker

Where: North Point Marina—Pit 2

Winthrop Harbor, IL

Speaker: Jenny P. Kenosha, WI

Bring a dish to pass, lawn chair, bug spray and a friend. Donations will be taken to cover the cost of pop, coffee, etc. Any proceeds go to the District 12 Christmas party

23rd Annual Alcoholics Anonymous Workshop Weekend

**BRIDGING THE GAP—Temporary Contacts
September 6-8, 2013**

**Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173**

The BTG Workshop Weekend will consist of presentations and discussions on BGT topics of interest. Participants will be A.A.'s involved or interested in 12 step work with Treatment facilities, Corrections, CPC, PI, H&I, etc. Professionals involved with BGT will also present. A.A.'s from across the U.S. and Canada will attend, many sharing their experiences on BGT topics.

Any Questions Contact: coordinator@btgww.org

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 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

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

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

The District 12 Newsletter needs your help!

All alcoholics are welcome to contribute. We are happy to publish your recovery-related stories, poems, artwork, etc.
Send submissions with subject line "Newsletter" to felicia2657@gmail.com

AA Northern Illinois Area 20
2013 BIG BOOK CONFERENCE
"Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension"
 October 26, 2013
 St. Luke's Church
 63 Fernwood Road
 Montgomery, Illinois 60538
 8:00 a.m. Registration - 9:00 a.m. Conference
 Laurie L.- Speaker - Lisle, IL
 (Laurie is the daughter of Ruth Hock - AA's 1st secretary)
 Gail L. - Historian - Lady Lakes, FL
 (Akron's AA Archivist for 30 years)

Online Registration <http://dist62.aa-nia.org>

GET READY!!!!
24th Annual McHenry Soberfest

November 22-24, 2013
 Grand Geneva Resort
 Lake Geneva, WI

AA Conference, Banquet, Dance, Alca-
 thons, Panels, Step Workshops, Literature,
 Archives, Meditation Room

Register online: www.soberfest.org

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