

# District 12 Newsletter

November, 2013

## 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.” 12x12 p.96



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## Be Careful What You Pray For

"I wish you'd shared that with me sooner," my Al-Anon friend said. "I could have saved you a lot of time and trouble!" I'd just told him how I'd introduced two verses of my own to the Prayer of St. Francis.

Several years ago, I began adding these sentences to the prayer AA borrows for our Eleventh Step: "It is only by being empty that one is filled. It is only by having nothing that one may have everything."

It sounded good to me. I don't remember giving a thought to what the answer to my prayer might look like. But it *did* start being answered, slowly at first and building to a crescendo.

"God help me!" was the first prayer I ever truly said; that one was answered very quickly. I was thirty-five years old and tired of life, a hopeless alcoholic. I screamed out that first real prayer while driving around drunk one day at lunch break. Shortly after that I rear-ended the car of an off-duty cop. Two days later I was in treatment, and three days later I was in an AA meeting.

This was my second AA meeting. Eighteen months earlier I had attended one meeting--drunk. I told the person who'd twelfth-stepped me, "I'm not religious. I can do this myself." Of course, I couldn't do it myself, and when I asked for God's help (even though I didn't know I was asking), God did help me. Rear-ending an off-duty cop and spending the rest of the day in the drunk tank didn't seem like the answer to a prayer at the time, but it was.

I should have known from that experience that my prayers would be answered--including my additions to the Eleventh Step prayer. I told my friend that since the previous fall, I had lost the business I'd founded and owned for thirty-one years, I'd filed for bankruptcy, lost my truck and car, lost my job, attempted suicide, buried my father, had my wife leave me, found out my son was in jail, and expected to lose my house.

Were my additions to the prayer being answered? Being empty? Having nothing?

Then a new job that I absolutely love appeared. My daughter offered to take me into her home with her husband and my two grandkids. Her caring and compassion have been truly heartfelt. My closest AA friend with over fifty years of sobriety who I see and talk to every day has been here to walk with me through my pain. I have a used subcompact car that gets two times the gas mileage of the new truck I lost. My wife and I are on good, friendly, and open terms, and I got the dogs. My life is being filled and I have been given everything I need.

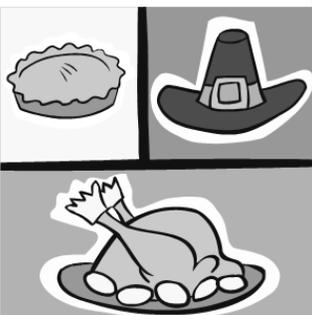
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It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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



### Tradition Eleven (Long Form)

*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 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.*

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*Be Careful What You Pray For — Continued*

Being filled. Having everything. Thank God!

What I have been given and what I'm being filled with is God's grace. God's grace to be able to share my life's experiences with people who truly care. God's grace to be right-sized. God's grace to face my life's situations without a drink. God's grace to bear the pain and grow. God's grace to be me. God's grace to live one day at a time. (My sponsor says, "The miracle for a guy like you is that you haven't had to take a drink.")

The most recent revision I've made to my daily prayers is this addition to the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is only by living one day at a time that one may be filled with God's Grace."

I'm thinking more about what I'm praying for and becoming more attuned to the answers that may come. I daily ask the God of my understanding: "Let me be responsible; let me use my experience, find balance, express your will, and help others. For it is by doing these things and helping others that I am helped."

I pray I can stay the course as the answers come.

Skitch F.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

AA Grapevine, Vol. 58 No. 6, November 2001

*The Serenity Prayer*

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it.*

*Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life;  
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next.*

*Amen.*

*Dr. Reinhold Neibuhr*

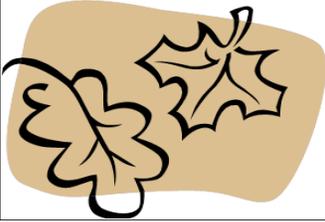
**A.A.'s Responsibility Statement**

"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**

## **FALL BREAKFAST**

October 27th, 2013  
Ramada Inn  
200 N. Greenbay Road  
Waukegan, IL



Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.  
Tickets: \$16.00  
Speaker: Ray M.  
from Elgin

## **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

*MERRY CHRISTMAS/HAPPY HOLIDAYS*

## ***District 12***

***Invites you to have dinner with Santa***



***When: Sunday, December 8,  
2013***

***Where: Gurnee Community  
Church  
4555 Old Grand Ave.  
Gurnee, IL 60031***

***Time:***

***2:00—Coffee***

***2:30 - Speaker—Kristina K., Gurnee***

***3:30—Dinner***

***4:00—Santa and Raffle***

***Bring a dessert to pass. There will be gifts  
for kids 10 and under. Please come and  
join us for some Holiday cheer!  
For more info call Karen F. 847-609-7354***

## **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

## **LADIES PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR 12 STEP WORK— YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!**

**Answering Service  
Sponsor/Sponsee  
12 Step Calls**

### **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.

## 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

**GET READY!!!!**

### **24th Annual McHenry Soberfest**

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

**AA Conference, Banquet, Dance,  
Alcathons, Panels, Step Workshops,  
Literature, Archives, Meditation Room**

**Register online: [www.soberfest.org](http://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.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
DCM	Mike H.	847-848-4855	<a href="mailto:Mike.henneberry@gmail.com">Mike.henneberry@gmail.com</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Secretary	Terry V.	847-650-2251	<a href="mailto:enchantedattic@hotmail.com">enchantedattic@hotmail.com</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Treasurer	Ron K.	847-623-0953	<a href="mailto:crkytasaari@att.net">crkytasaari@att.net</a>	Sue D.	847-502-1007	<a href="mailto:susie12956@aol.com">susie12956@aol.com</a>
Answering Service	Berto G.	224-280-5235		Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	<a href="mailto:bonniepetterec@gmail.com">bonniepetterec@gmail.com</a>
CPC / Treatment	Frank M.	847-336-2775		Francis K.	847-744-0793	
Corrections	Pete O.	847-662-8737	<a href="mailto:Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com">Peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com</a>	Lavonne G.	224-538-0228	<a href="mailto:lavonnegreen60@gmail.com">lavonnegreen60@gmail.com</a>
Grapevine	James T.	224-730-2681	<a href="mailto:JamesT1956@yahoo.com">JamesT1956@yahoo.com</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Public Information	<b>OPEN</b>			<b>OPEN</b>		
Literature	John M.		Contact through District 12 Website	<b>OPEN</b>		
Newsletter	Felicia H.	224-717-2424	<a href="mailto:felicia2657@gmail.com">felicia2657@gmail.com</a>	Nick P.	847-872-6727	<a href="mailto:nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net">nicholas_prins@sbcglobal.net</a>
Directory	Martin C.	773-870-4010	<a href="mailto:claussenmartin@aol.com">claussenmartin@aol.com</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Archive	Marlene	224-545-1495	<a href="mailto:grubbsmarlene@gmail.com">grubbsmarlene@gmail.com</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
Special Events	Karen F.	847-609-7354	<a href="mailto:k.finkel@comcast.net">k.finkel@comcast.net</a>	<b>OPEN</b>		
District Breakfast	Jimmy F.	847-609-7354		Jimmy P.	224-538-1689	<a href="mailto:jimipinkstaff@yahoo.com">jimipinkstaff@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster	Beth B.	224.522-1676	<a href="mailto:pollockburke@gmail.com">pollockburke@gmail.com</a>	Brian M.	847-736-0403	<a href="mailto:brianm959@yahoo.com">brianm959@yahoo.com</a>