

District 12 Newsletter

December, 2014

Step Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.” 12x12 p.106



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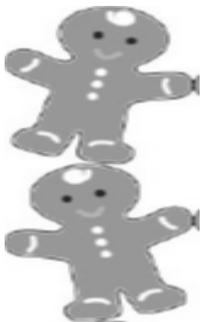
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It Works if you Work
it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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



Are We Forgetting Twelfth Step Calls?

I WAS LUCKY! One of the first women I met in AA knew no limits when it came to reaching out to still-suffering alcoholics. Shortly after I joined the Fellowship, she became my sponsor, and her message was clear. She said that I was self-centered, that I was wallowing in self-pity, and that I could overcome this--by trying to help other alcoholics.

I had seen the movies *The Lost Weekend* and *Days of Wine and Roses*, so I was familiar with Hollywood's version of carrying the AA message, and it appealed to me. I've always liked high drama, so I enthusiastically agreed to go along with her on Twelfth Step calls early in my sobriety. We went on many calls together, armed with "care packages"--soup, honey, tea, juice, and handfuls of AA literature. The women we called on were a far cry from Lee Remick, and Hollywood forgot to mention that most alcoholics seem to have dogs that haven't been outside for days.

Alcoholics also change their minds; there were many times when we were welcomed less than graciously in spite of the fact that the alcoholic had called for help and we had canceled plans in our efforts to "go to any length." A few of the people we called on did get sober. Most did not; I hope they reached out for help later and found AA.

But my sponsor was right. It was hard for me to feel sorry for myself when my energies were focused on helping another drunk. Most important, I stayed sober. Twelfth Step calls taught me about myself and my illness. I'll always remember the help I received from an indigent woman in the alcoholic ward of the city hospital. She may have been only forty-five or fifty, but she looked very old. I was there because it was my night to make coffee for the weekly AA meeting. She was lying on her bed exposing her toothpick legs, which were covered with wine sores. She was so weak that she could barely walk, so I offered to take her to the meeting in a wheelchair. She responded, "No thanks, honey. I've never been so bad that I needed the AAs."

I heard myself answer, "Thank God I *was* bad enough to need AA, and it sure has helped me."

It's been several years since I've been on what we think of as a Twelfth Step call, and I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because I've neglected to let the intergroup office know that I would welcome an opportunity to carry the message.

With AA growing at a rate of fifteen new groups daily, Twelfth Step work is still taking place, but perhaps in different forms. The AA General Service Office lists 540 area and local public information committees and more than 300 additional public information contacts. By talking to non-AAs in schools, churches, and service clubs, by providing literature displays at health fairs, and by placing AA public service announcements on TV and radio and getting articles about AA into local newspapers, these twelfth-steppers are reaching thousands of alcoholics hidden in the general public.

More than 200 committees on cooperation with the professional community are carrying the AA message to physicians, medical students, members of the clergy, psychologists, social workers, educators, and people in labor and management.

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Tradition Twelve (Long Form)

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. 12 x 12 p. 192

Are We Forgetting Twelfth Step Calls? — Continued

Approximately 200 institutions committees are carrying the AA message to hospitals, treatment centers, and correctional facilities.

With the proliferation of treatment facilities that took place in the 1970s, we aren't seeing many alcoholics holding half-empty cups of coffee at their first meeting because they are shaking too hard to hold full cups. Thank God, it's been at least ten years since I've seen a new member go into an alcoholic convulsion at a meeting. But there is still plenty for us to do if we want what co-founder Bill W. described as the "undreamed rewards" we receive as we try to help another alcoholic--one who is "even blinder" than we.

We can let local treatment centers know that we welcome opportunities to introduce alcoholic patients to AA, that we are available to serve as temporary or interim sponsors upon their discharge.

We can be available to meet a fellow member who found sobriety inside the walls. With 1,100 AA groups in prisons and jails, there is always a need for outside members to provide that crucial AA contact the day an inmate is released.

Corresponding with inmates, sharing with an AA Loner, making coffee, talking at a meeting, sponsoring a newcomer, serving as the link between your group and AA as a whole--there are many ways to make Twelfth Step calls.

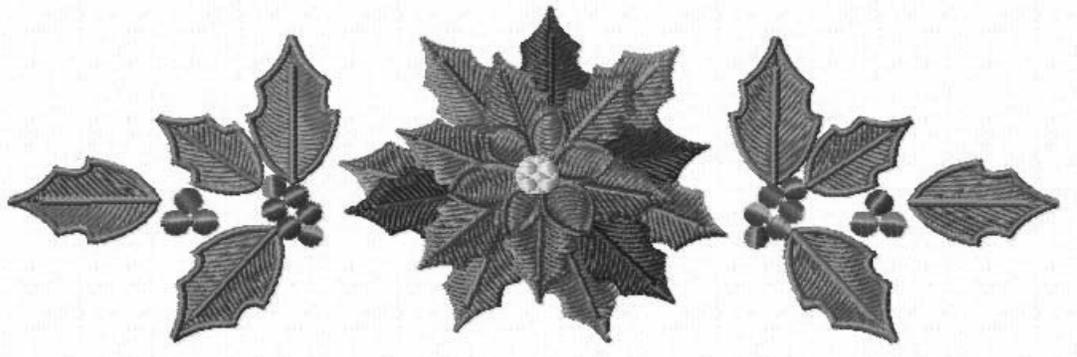
Old-timers talk about the days when early AAs literally went to any length to help other alcoholics. There's the story about a traveling salesman from New York who once rode a bus 450 miles out of his way because the AA General Service Office had received a plea for help from someone with a drinking problem. Even today, Loners write about receiving help from another Loner who has traveled a day or more over rarely used dirt roads. Those AAs understood the meaning of "reaching out" to another alcoholic.

I think of those stories, and I feel concern about recent discussions in my home group. Much emphasis is put on reaching out--but the stress is on reaching out *for* help rather than *to* help. Many of the newcomers, and some who are not so new, talk about how AA members are letting them down. One feels "abandoned" because her sponsor is going on vacation. Another is hurt because no one invited her to go for coffee after last week's meeting. They feel unsatisfied and turned-off by AA because they reached out *for* help to deal with every conceivable problem, and did not receive the attention they were seeking. I am uncomfortable as I listen, and I know that I said those things, too. Again, I was lucky--my sponsor told me that I would get better if I stopped thinking about myself and reached out to help others, and it worked!

The primary purpose of every AA group is to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. Maybe it's time to make some old-fashioned Twelfth Step calls in my own group, so that nondrinking but still-suffering alcoholics I see every week can know the joy of truly living sober.

Yes, we do have central/intergroup offices to answer calls in most of our cities and hundreds of committees on public information and cooperation with the professional community to spread the word. But let's not forget that our Fellowship got its start because a drunk named Bill sought help *for* himself by reaching out to help another drunk named Dr. Bob.

L. F. Manhattan, NY - A.A. Grapevine Vol. 39 No. 10, March 1983



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

District 12 Christmas—Holiday Party

***Sunday, December 14, 2014
Gurnee Community Church
4555 Old Grand Ave.
Gurnee, IL 60031***

2:00pm to 6:30pm

***Speaker: Mark T. (Gurnee/Waukegan)
Speaker: 3pm
Dinner: 4pm***



***All Children 10 and Under Will
Receive a Present from Santa***

***The dinner is free, but please
bring a dessert***

Cash Raffle— 50/50 Raffle

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
Les 224-237-4269

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

NEW SPANISH SPEAKING AA MEETING

**Where: Alano Club of Waukegan
2419 Washington St. Waukegan, IL 60085
When: Every Thursday Night 8PM
Format: OPEN AA Meeting**

**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**

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 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**

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.



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	Pete O.	847-662-8737	Peter.choa73@yahoo.com	Lavonne G.	224-440-2834	lavonnegreen60@gmail.com
Grapevine	Jeff F.		Jord732@comcast.net	OPEN		
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