

July 2022



District 12 Newsletter

**24/7 Hotline:
847-623-9660**

**Support your
District:**

Please mail checks to:

NIA District 12

PO Box 8882

Waukegan, IL 60079

Checks payable to:

NIA District 12

or donate online
using PayPal at

www.aadistrict12.com

**Next District
Meeting**

**July 17th at
4-5pm**

**at the Waukegan
Alano Club with a
3 pm GSR meeting
ALL are welcome.
District chairs and
District 12 GSR's
encouraged to
attend.**

**Contact your DCM,
Renita D.
for Zoom logins
mommydearest.rd@
gmail.com**

Step 7: "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Tradition 7: "Every A.A. group out to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions."

Concept 7: "The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness."



Happy (Belated) Birthday Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bill W. stated, in 1945, that June 10th was "a day for congratulations, for thanksgiving and for celebration".



Well, celebrate we did! Approximately ten thousand gathered in Akron to celebrate Founders' Day this year. Since the previous year was virtual, an in-person celebration was joyful and cherished by all present. Visiting historical sites such as Dr. Bob's home, the Gate House (the site where Bill & Bob first met) and paying respects at the gravesite of Bob and Anne are a few of the weekend's highlights. Other Founders' Day happening include speakers from all over the globe, literature sales, traditions play, panels, dance. Save the date for 2023 and consider making a trek to Akron to see where it all began.

Alongside Bill W. and Dr. Bob, Sister Ignatia is also recognized as a founder and deemed the "Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous". (See page 3 for more about Sister Ignatia). This month's newsletter is focused on our history- enjoy.

Upcoming Events**

2022 State and East Central Regional Conference

August 12th-14th

Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL.

AA, Alanon & GSO speakers

Banquet and Dance

ASL and Spanish Translation

<http://www.aa-nia.org/state/>

35th Annual Wolf River Camping Trip

August 12th-14th

Bear Paw Campground

White Lake, WI

Reservations required



Green Lake Round-up

August 19th-21st

Green Lake Conference Center

Green Lake, WI

greenlakeroundupwi@gmail.com

McHenry Soberfest

November 18th-20th

Grand Geneva- Lk Geneva, WI

Registration and Resort

Reservations are open

<http://www.soberfest.org/>

Open Speaker Meeting

Waukegan Alano Club

Every Saturday at 8:00 pm.

In person and Zoom

Zoom ID: 865 2712 0396

Password: 465866

Online meeting directory:

[https://aa-](https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings)

[intergroup.org/meetings](https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings)

** May be hosted by private entities



Our Beginning

“A.A. began in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron physician. Both had been hopeless alcoholics.

Before their meeting, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group. This mostly nonalcoholic fellowship emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. The Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, led the Oxford Groups in the U.S. at that time.

Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober. Bill maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics. Yet, before meeting Dr. Bob, none of these other alcoholics had actually recovered.

At the same time, Dr. Bob’s Oxford Group membership in Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face-to-face with a fellow sufferer who was succeeding.

Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions, and body. Bill learned this important fact from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York. Bill had often been a patient of Dr. Silkworth. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill’s convincing ideas, Dr. Bob soon got sober, never to drink again. This sparked the founding of A.A.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron’s City Hospital. One patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. These three men made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group (though the name Alcoholics Anonymous was not yet used.)

In the fall of 1935, a second group of alcoholics slowly took shape in New York. A third appeared at Cleveland in 1939. It took four years to produce about 100 sober alcoholics in the three founding groups.

Early in 1939, the Fellowship published its basic textbook, Alcoholics Anonymous. The text, written by Bill and reviewed by many of the early members, explained A.A.’s philosophy and methods. The core of this work is now well-known as the Twelve Steps of recovery. The book also included case histories of thirty recovered members. From this point, A.A.’s development was rapid.” Retrieved from: <https://www.aa.org/the-start-and-growth-of-aa>



Try the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Show. Super fun, free and only 30 minutes an episode.



<https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

Please support our ongoing need for content
You may submit your work the following ways:

Email: district12newsletter@yahoo.com

Mail: NIA District 12, PO Box 8882, Waukegan, IL 60079

In-person drop off: Waukegan Alano (coffee bar safe)

Handwritten submissions gratefully accepted.

Sister Ignatia

Sister Ignatia worked closely with Dr. Bob. Starting in 1939, they worked together to help admit alcoholics into St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio. She surmounted obstacles to personally care for thousands of alcoholics. For several decades, she helped alcoholics in Akron and later at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland.

Sister Ignatia was beloved by all who were associated with or helped by her. She was often referred to as the “Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

She was originally a musician. Her order, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine, transferred Sister Ignatia to Akron. She worked in the admissions office at St. Thomas Hospital. It was in that capacity that she first met and worked with Dr. Bob and Bill W. They approached her regarding a new therapy for alcoholics who wished to quit drinking. She allowed them space in the hospital, often admitting alcoholics under a diagnosis of “gastritis”. Sister Ignatia gained support of her community to accept these alcoholics and to spread A.A. philosophy to all that sought treatment at St. Thomas hospital for treatment.

Bill W. wrote in an 1954 essay: “Through Sister Ignatia and Bob, God had wrought a divine conspiracy of medicine, religion and Alcoholics Anonymous which was to bring sobriety within reach of more than 5,000 alcoholics who were to pass through the alcoholic ward of St. Thomas up to the time of Dr. Bob’s death in 1950”.

Following Dr. Bob’s death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued her work at St. Thomas. Then in 1952, she transferred to St. Vincent Charity Hospital at Cleveland. She oversaw its alcoholic ward. Upon arrival, the ward at “Charity” was part of a dilapidated wing and needed rejuvenation. The ward was transformed with Sister’s urging and much help from A.A. members with carpentry skills. Its new name became Rosary Hall Solarium, which shares the same abbreviation as Dr. Bob’s full name.

Sister Ignatia provided each patient who left her care with a Sacred Heart badge. She asked each recipient to promise that they would return the badge before they drank again.

She died in Richfield, Ohio, at age 77, on April 1, 1966. There were reportedly about 3,000 people present at the funeral, including A.A.’s co-founder, Bill W. Sister Ignatia was buried in Cleveland, OH.

Recording of Sister Ignatia speak of her experience:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MREOQQRV2g>

Read more written by Sister Ignatia about “[The Care of Alcoholics](#)” in [Silkworth.net](#)

7th Step Prayer:

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book), p. 76)



Mailing Addresses for Donations:

NIA District 12
PO Box 8882,
Waukegan, IL 60079-8882

Or donate using PayPal at
www.aadistrict12.com

General Service Office Contributions (Updated)
PO Box 2407 James A Farley Station
New York, New York 10116-2407

Northern Illinois Area 20 Ltd:
PO Box 524,
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524

Helpful Links:

www.aadistrict12.com

<https://district10nia.org/>

www.aa-nia.org

www.aa.org

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide

www.aagrapevine.org

Online Meetings:

<https://aa-intergroup.org/meetings>

Interested in an open position?
 Please attend the monthly District meeting for more information.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are of the author and do not reflect directly upon Alcoholics Anonymous, District 12 or the officers.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Renita D.	██████████	██████████	Francelia K.	██████████	██████████
Secretary	Darlene F.	██████████	██████████	Billy S.	██████████	██████████
Treasurer	Jackie S	██████████	██████████	Laura J.	██████████	██████████
Answering Service	Betty		██████████	OPEN		
Archive	Roy K.	██████████	██████████			
Bridging the Gap	Julius			Karen F	██████████	██████████
Corrections						
CPC / Treatment	Dick M.	██████████	██████████	Robert B	██████████	██████████
Directory	Danielle W.	██████████	██████████	OPEN		
Grapevine				OPEN		
Literature	Ken C.	██████████	██████████	OPEN		
Newsletter	Colleen M	██████████	██████████	OPEN		
Public Information	Occupied			OPEN		
Special Events	Gimel T.	██████████	██████████	OPEN		
Webmaster	Danny K	██████████	██████████	Thadonia S.	██████████	██████████