

District 12 Newsletter

March 2016

Step Three

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him“

Many Powers Greater Than Me

A member describes how he came to practice Steps Two and Three

When I got to AA, Steps 2 and 3 reminded me of my unsuccessful attempts at mental gymnastics as a child and youth at the Lutheran church my mother sent me to. I was told that only complete faith in Jesus as savior counted, and that was pretty elusive. I tended to ask wisecrack questions like, "What happens to the kids who are born in Saudi Arabia. Was God prejudiced?"

An AA friend said that she was walking down a street in Canberra when a sidewalk evangelist accosted her. He said that she would go to hell if she didn't accept certain things. She said that the God she believed in wouldn't be that narrow-minded. The man exclaimed that, "God's very narrow-minded!" That reminds me of something Voltaire said: "God created man in his own image. And man returned the favor."

I couldn't seem to find the bits in the Big Book or 12 Steps and 12 Traditions where they told how to take Steps 2 and 3, but I got a lot out of *Came to Believe*. With all the stories in it about how members were able to take these Steps, I would think just about anyone could find something they could relate to. In one story, I read that somebody came to believe that something was running things, and it wasn't them, and I could accept that.

At a meeting last night, which included a reading about this Step, it hit me that I had always thought of it as being about finding God. But now I think is more about just accepting that I need help and that there is something, or someone, that could help me. One guy said that he told an older member that he just couldn't believe. He was told to just substitute "hope" for "believe" making it, "Came to hope that a power greater than ourselves could return us to sanity." That seems pretty sensible to me and something those who could only hope to be returned to sanity could accept.

Refusing to believe seems more of a question of ego than real doubt. The world is full of powers greater than myself. I heard an anecdote once in which a guy told his sponsor that he just couldn't believe in a power greater than himself. He was told to go to the middle of the main street and take off all his clothes, and that he would soon see a power greater than himself coming up in a blue and white car.

The only trick is to believe that at least one of those powers could restore me to enough sanity so I would not feel the need to drink again. Being surrounded by others in meetings who have clearly been able to do that, it is hard to not accept that it is possible. It is just a matter of accepting that I need help.

—Jim F.

From the current issue of AA's Grapevine Online



Happy Saint Patrick's Day

It Works if you Work it!

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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

District 12 Business/GSR Meeting.

WHERE: Vista West Medical Center
2615 Washington St
Waukegan, IL 60085

WHEN: Every 3rd Sunday of the Month
3:30pm Traditions Meeting
4:00pm Business/GSR Meeting

All A.A. Members are invited to attend.

Learn about what is happening in our district and the many types of services that we offer.

Mark your calendar

Districts 10 & 12 Spring Breakfast

Sunday, April 10th, 2016

Bonnie Brook Country Club

2800 N. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, IL

Coffee: 8:00 a.m. Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

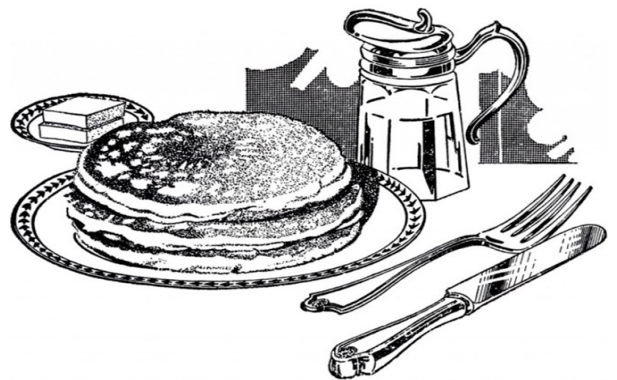
Speaker: Michelle D. (McHenry)

ISCYPAA

Cost: \$18.00

Dist. 10: Kristina K. @ 224-456-1225

Dist. 12: Terry V. @ 847-650-2251



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR IN A NUT SHELL!

Date	Event
Sunday Mar. 6th	Tri-County Mini-Conference Planning meeting will be held at 12:30 PM at the Kenosha Alano Club, 630 56th St, Kenosha, WI 53140 .
Saturday Mar. 12th	Tri-County Mini-Conference U.A.W. Hall 3615 Washington Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53144 Registration Opens at 8:00 A.M. Kick-Off at 9:00 A.M.
Sunday Mar. 13th	Quarterly Luncheon at Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St. 847-662-9640 Spaghetti Luncheon serving at 1:00 PM; Members, \$3.00, Nonmembers, \$5.00
Saturday Mar. 19th	St. Patrick's Day at Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St. 847-662-9640 Festivities start 1:00 PM. Corned beef & cabbage, shepherds pie, soda bread Please bring a dish to share. Members, \$4.00, Nonmembers, \$6.00.
Sunday Mar. 20th	District 12 Business/GSR Meeting. All A.A. Members are invited to attend Vista West Medical Center, 2615 Washington St, Waukegan, IL 60085 3:30pm Traditions Meeting , 4:00pm Business/GSR Meeting
Weekend Apr. 1st-3rd	43 rd NIA Spring Assembly & Conference Holiday Inn Rock Island, 226 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 For more information check out the website— niaspringconference.com
Saturday Apr. 9th	Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, Lord of Life Church, La Fox Let's send our delegate to New York with a valid group conscience on the agenda
Sunday Apr. 10th	Districts 10 & 12 Spring Breakfast, Coffee: 8:00 a.m., Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. Bonnie Brook Country Club, 2800 N. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan, IL, Cost: \$18.00 Dist. 12: Terry V. @ 847-650-2251 Dist. 10: Kristina K. @ 224-456-1225

New Meeting

We are starting a weekly AA meeting specifically for veterans. The reason for this is simple; veterans tend to open up more when around other veterans. The meeting is on Monday nights from 5-6 pm at Lake County Veterans and Family Services Foundation drop in center located at 100 S Atkinson, Suite 110, Grayslake, IL 60030. It is on the SW corner of Atkinson and Center. The entrances to the strip mall is at the Kindercare Day Care Center.

New Meeting

How It Works Big Book Study Group

Having trouble figuring this thing out?
Wondering why some people stay sober, while you struggle?

**Join us Mondays starting March 7, 2016
Waukegan Alano Club at 7:30 PM**

**Warning: This is only for those serious about recovery and
learning how to *really* enjoy life one day at a time!**

Spanish Speaking AA Meetings

Where: Alano Club of Waukegan 2419 Washington St, Wkgn IL
When: Every Tues morning, 10 am & every Thurs night, 8 pm
These are two new Spanish Speaking Groups of the Alano Club of Waukegan. Please, let's do our part by reaching out to the large Latin Community & help carry the message to them. Questions?
Call: Pete O. at 1-224-381-9992 or Jaime G at 1-224-861-3189

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

12 STEP WORK

Sponsor Panel: ATP 1 st & 3rd Saturdays 12:45-2pm
Back to Basics: ATP 2nd & 4th Saturdays 12:45-2pm
Drug Court: 1:30pm Fridays Court 202
Mental Health Court: 9:00am Mondays Court 220
Veterans Court: 9:00am Fridays Court 202
SAP: SAP Bldg. 1:00pm Thursdays
Detox: ATP 7:30pm Wednesdays
For Info Contact: Frank M.@ 224-730-3045

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
Email copy of forms to: paulperini@att.net

SPEAKER TAPE MEETING

EVERY THURSDAY 6pm
Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St
Listen to speakers from all over
& eat desserts!
Contact Karen F. 847-609-7354

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, IL 60079-8882
Newsletter Submissions should be sent to Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com
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	Ken C..	847-693-0970	kenc693@yahoo.com	Paul P.	847-505-4656 paulperini@att.net
Secretary	Bonnie P.	224-440-3620	bonnieloripink@gmail.com	OPEN	
Treasurer	Dave H.	224-627-5153	dhall711@att.net	Ron K.	847-623-0953 ronkdist12@att.net
Answering Service	Steve N	847-623-5076	stephenmordstrom@gmail.com	Byron W.	847-744-2325
CPC / Treatment	Bill W.	224-456-9455	whwoolridge@msn.com	Dick M.	847-404-3713.
Corrections	Frank M.	224-730-3045	aboutme615@gmail.com	Les M.	847-336-3275
Grapevine	Jackie S	224-247-8963	spencerjackie61@yahoo.com	OPEN	
Public Information	Francis K.	847-505-2555		Karen F.	847-609-7354 k.finkel@comcast.net
Literature	Patrick M.	224-501-5650	flathead_3888@yahoo.com	John M..	TBA Contact thru District 12 Website
Newsletter	Mike H.	847-848-4855	dist12.newsletter@gmail.com	OPEN	
Directory	Martin C.	773-870-4010	claussenmartin@aol.com	OPEN	
Archive	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat1@juno.com	OPEN	
Special Events	Terry V.	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN	
Webmaster	OPEN			OPEN	