

District 12 Newsletter



2021

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
March 21st
4-5pm
GSR meeting @
3pm
At the Waukegan
Alano Club
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 3: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Tradition 3: "The only requirement for A.A. membership is the desire to stop drinking."

Concept 3: "To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.- the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees and executives- with a traditional "Right of Decision" (short form)

Third Step Prayer:

God, I offer myself to thee- to build with me as Thou wilt.
Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will.
Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always. Amen"

Alcoholics Anonymous (Big book) p. 63

How can I become involved at the district?
Come to a district meeting and learn about what goes on at the district level. Presently, there are a few alternate positions open.

Service is the secret!

Keep an eye out:

The district will be doing a 4th Step in April! The goal of our inventory is to gain a better perspective on possible improvements and the direction of the district. A weblink to the electronic survey will be published in the April newsletter and on the district website. More details to follow.

We thank you for your participation.

Hello all you beautiful people out there! My name is Tommy, and I am an alcoholic and an addict. First, I want to thank you for taking time to read this article in our amazing newsletter (Thanks Colleen!). My sober date is June 2nd, 2018. I have a sponsor and I also sponsor other gentlemen in the A.A. program. I have been asked to write about a program we have in our district called “Bridging the Gap” (BTG). I have the pleasure of chairing BTG for about two years now.

Bridging the Gap is a beautiful program. We try to reach people in treatment and correctional facilities to talk to them about their next steps to take as they leave their facility. Spreading the word of Alcoholics Anonymous is important to me. We express the importance of making meetings after release from treatment or correctional facilities. BTG also has a volunteer ride program where people can sign up to give rides.

One of my favorite parts about Bridging the Gap is just being able to sit down and explain our program. A.A. saved my life. I tell them A.A. can do the same for them if they want it. Explaining the importance of making meeting and having a sponsor is the meat of what I share with them. I also share my story to see if they can relate. For me, hearing others share their story is what drew me in and let me know I was not alone. Those stories let me know others felt the way I felt.

At the end of the day, I hope I can reach at least one person in our efforts to spread the message of A.A. As many of you know, this work helps me sometimes so much more than it might be helping them. I truly believe in the power of 12 Step work. I see it work wonders in my life every day. Working with others is a fantastic source of self- reflection as well. I've been able to strengthen my ability to express the core fundamentals of the program the more I embrace 12 Step work.

I am truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to do this kind of work for the district and will continue until it is my time to pass it on in the spirit of rotation. I hope this has given you some insight on what Bridging the Gap is and the importance of our message. If you would like more information, come see me at our District 12 meeting. I pray for nothing but love and light for all.

Much Love- Tommy C. (Waukegan, IL)

*Bill W. on Concept 3:
“Our entire A.A.
program rests squarely
upon the principle of
mutual trust. We trust
God, we trust A.A. and
we trust each other.”*

The newsletter depends upon your submissions.

We need your contributions to improve the content of our newsletter.

In search of your stories, comics, jokes and events.

Email your work to:
District12newsletter@yahoo.com

**Now on Zoom:
Waukegan Alano Club Open Speaker Meeting**

**Meeting ID: 86527120396
Passcode: 465866**

**Would you like your event included in the newsletter?
Submit info to
district12newsletter
@yahoo.com**

Looking for an Online meeting?

Visit the District 12 website at www.aadistrict12.com.

To list your meeting, email webmaster Danny K. through the district website to submit your meeting's link.

Other online meeting directories:

<https://www.ifheweresought.org/meetings>

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

(this site offers many language options and ASL meetings)

**Sobriety isn't about luck.
It's about freedom.**

On November 14th, 2010, the desire to drink had finally left the building. I had a spiritual experience coupled with knowledge of the program. I had gotten a new sponsor, a new career, and a new outlook on life. I had a lot of work to do to get rid of those character defects. The big ones went away quickly, but those little ones hold on for dear life.

I was told in treatment that 1 in 3 people make it...I decided I would be one of those that made it. I watched people go back out after being warned about relationships, smoking pot and hanging out in old places with old friends. I went to a lot of meetings. I started sponsoring women and working with others.

I take meetings to institutions and treatment centers. These are like "super meetings". I get such a boost from these meetings. I learned patience, compassion and how a calm voice is more effective than a crazy rant. I learned the value of staying in the Big Book and staying in the solution.

I have always been jealous of others who have things that I really wish for...a big one was yoga and meditation. I spent years being jealous of how people were able to have the time to practice both. I finally realized I needed to make the time and put in the work. Another bonus of this pandemic...time at home! In March of 2020, I started using my mornings to meditate and practice yoga. I am grateful that these practices have helped me maintain balance this year.

Today:

I have learned to stay in the moment because I cannot control anything except for how I respond.
I have learned to ask for help because I got tired of getting frustrated that people couldn't read my mind and do what I thought they should be doing

I have learned that low expectations and high acceptance will foster serenity

I have quit smoking after 27 years

I have stayed married for 23 years

I have solid relationships with my kids at home and school

I am grateful that I have an active sponsor and a great group of sponsee sisters.

I have this graceful and humble grand sponsor who cheers us all on.

I have a home group that is as old as I am and despite lots of bumps we are all holding it together on Zoom. We cry, we laugh, and we are a group who would normally not mix.

Be as kind to yourself as you are to others

Intensive work with other alcoholics works when all other things fail

And you, "should constantly have **chocolate** available for its quick energy value at times of fatigue." -Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book) p. 134

Jackie S.- Waukegan, IL
District 12 Treasurer



Mailing Addresses for Donations

**General Service Office: PO Box 459
Grand Central Station, New York, NY
10163**

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

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

Helpful Links:

www.aadistrict12.com

www.aa-nia.org

www.aa.org

www.aagrapvine.org

District 12 Hotline: 847-623-9660

Meeting Guide is a free of charge meeting finder app

Find A.A. meetings by name or location, in addition to the day and time

- Daily Reflections — a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members
- Enhanced location functionality
- Expanded user interface, with a new menu bar



Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Renita D.	224-650-1359	Mommydearest.rd@gmail.com	Francelia K.	224-305-1061	Fervin30@gmail.com
Secretary	Darlene F.	224-415-5505	Msdfox9@gmail.com	Billy S.	765-621-7875	Wsigafus1969@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jackie S	224-247-8963	spencerbox@comcast.net	Laura J.	847-533-0895	laurajohnson3623@comcast.net
Answering Service	Tom R.	847-804-1361	reitmeyerremodeling@gmail.com	OPEN		
Archive	John M		Aadisrtct12.com	Roy K.	847-293-4616	Roykidd48@gmail.com
Bridging the Gap	Tommy C	224-287-3416	gratefulmcgeelz@gmail.com	Carrie P	224-256-7614	Carrieapanos@gmail.com
Corrections	Les M.	224-381-4922	No email	OPEN		
CPC / Treatment	Dick M.	847-404-3713	dick71308@ameritech.net	Robert B	224-733-5802	Rblack@gmail.com
Directory	Frankye	847-529-9796	frankye_brooks@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Grapevine	Suzanne A	224-430-7200	Kmarends2014@gmail.com	OPEN		
Literature	Marylane B.	763-401-0819	Monadieu@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Newsletter	Colleen M	262-331-0276	district12newsletter@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	Danielle W.	224-321-4851	Danielle.wuorenma@gmail.com	OPEN		
Special Events	Terry V	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN		
Webmaster	Danny K	224-440-2024	kratovild@gmail.com	Thadonia S.	312-383-9488	thadoniasut@gmail.com

District 12 Officers (Confidential – this information is for A.A. use only)

Interested in an open position?

Please attend the monthly District meeting for more information.