

District 12 Newsletter

May 2016

Step Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our wrongs”



Spring has sprung!

Turn in Your Application

When it comes to Steps 4 and 5, I did just about everything wrong. We moved to a new home. At the first meeting I went to, a guy named Hal asked me if I had done the fourth step. When I told him no, he handed me a matchbook and pen, and said to start writing. I didn't think this was particularly funny, so I ignored him. I couldn't do that for long though; because Hal seemed to be at every meeting I went to with a new matchbook.

I had waited over two years, until I was really hurting, before I went to my sponsor and explained my dilemma. He, of course, suggested that I do a fourth step. I understood this response; but I didn't feel my condition was that drastic so I did what I normally did, I procrastinated.

A few months later, I went to him again. He asked how I was coming on my fourth step. I said I hadn't started. He said "WELL!!!" And again, I procrastinated.

Eventually, I went to him and asked to make an appointment to do a fifth step. He told me he didn't want to hear my fifth step; and recommended I do the fifth step with someone else. Well, I didn't like that at all. I knew Roy, my sponsor, well enough to know that I could con him on a couple of things. Dan, his suggested recipient of my fifth step, and I drank alike. I knew I wouldn't be able to con Dan. So again, I procrastinated.

Finally, after consistent queries from both Roy and Hal, I called Dan to set an appointment for the fifth step. He chose a Sunday afternoon and his only requirement was that we had to be finished before Kojak came on. So now I had a date and time for step five. All I had to do was step four, again, I procrastinated.

On the Saturday before that fateful Sunday, I went to several meetings gathering anything I could find on doing the fourth step. I had the Twelve and Twelve, new Hazelden guide, the old Hazelden guide, an Akron guide, and some other guides. I was ready. I spent the evening going through all the guides, and getting more and more confused. Somewhere around midnight, I looked at the pile of paper before me and realized this wasn't working. Again, I procrastinated, I took a nap.

One Day at a Time!

Let Go and Let God!

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

When I woke, for some reason I decided to check out the Big Book. It spoke of resentments. Who did I resent? What was the cause? Why was I threatened? The work I had done all evening suddenly started to come together. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Jones led the way, and I put down the people, places, and things I was resentful of, the cause, and the result. Then I read what has become one of my favorite paragraphs in the Big Book. It says:

“It is plain that a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness. To the precise extent that we permit these, do we squander the hours that might have been worthwhile. But with the alcoholic, whose hope is the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience, this business of resentment is infinitely grave. We found that it is fatal. For when harboring such feelings we shut ourselves off from the sunlight of the Spirit. The insanity of alcohol returns and we drink again. And with us, to drink is to die.”

These resentments were killers, but now that I had acknowledged them, put them down on paper, and was ready to share them with Dan. They didn't seem so powerful. In fact, most of them seemed silly. I couldn't understand why I had let my life be controlled by them.

Sunday afternoon, at Dan's, I read what resolved only hours before. He listened patiently, but at one point I looked up and it was clear he was dosing. How could he, this was my life I was talking about, was I not important. No I wasn't. Nor were these resentments that I had let control my life, they were petty and inconsequential. What was important was that they were in the past. They were over, they didn't have to control me anymore.

When I finished, Dan and I talked for a time. We shared some of our experiences, both good and bad, and how we felt about them, then and now. Looking at step six, he asked if I was really ready to let my Higher Power take over control of my life. Then we said the seventh step prayer and it was time for Kojak.

As I left there I felt relieved. Something had changed. My relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous was different. I was no longer just going to meetings; I was part of the larger group. Do I have any regrets, only that I waited over two years to do this. I should have done it much earlier. So I now look at it this way:

Step Four is applying for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Step Five is turning in the application.

Do it sooner, rather than later.

Mike H

A New Women's Closed AA Meeting

Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

Leah's House. 306 Gillett Ave, Waukegan IL.

**It is near Vista East Hospital,
one block west of Sheridan Rd.**

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR IN A NUT SHELL!

Date	Event
Friday May 9th	1st Planning Meeting for the Annual District 12 Summer Bash on July 24th 7:00 p.m. at the Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St., Waukegan, IL 60085 Come and help make this Summer Bash, one of the all time best
Saturday May 14th	The Spring Committee Meeting at the Lord of Life Church in La Fox, IL Registration 8:00 a.m., Meeting 9:00 a.m., Lunch will be available District 40 Hosts; All A.A. Members are welcome
Sunday May 15th	Compass Group will celebrate it's 30th anniversary at the 10:00 a.m. meeting A Complimentary Breakfast will be served after the Speaker At the Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St., Waukegan, IL 60085
Sunday May 15th	Dist. 12 Business Meeting, 3:30pm Traditions Meeting, 4:00pm Business Meeting Vista West Medical Center, 2615 Washington St., Waukegan, IL 60085 All GSR's should attend; All A.A. Members are welcome
Saturday Jun. 11th	District 43 Hosts the Summer Assembly at the Lord of Life Church in La Fox, IL Registration 8:00 a.m., Meeting 9:00 a.m., Lunch will be available All GSR's should attend; All A.A. Members are welcome
Sunday Jun. 12th	Quarterly Luncheon at Waukegan Alano Club, 2419 Washington St. 847-662-9640 Luncheon serving at 1:00 PM; Members, \$3.00, Nonmembers, \$5.00
Sunday Jul. 24th	Summer Bash in Shelter A of the Green Belt Forest Preserve. Noon to dusk. Bring a dish and plan to hear a great speaker.

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.**

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 Saturday 12:45-2pm
Back to Basics: ATP 2nd & 4th Saturday 12:45-2pm
Drug Court: 1:30pm Friday Court 201
Mental Health Court: 9:00am Monday Court 220
Veterans Court: 9:00am Friday Court 201
SAP: SAP Bldg. 1:00pm Thursday
Detox: ATP 7:30pm Wednesday, 2:00pm & 7:00pm Sunday
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: Les 847-336-3275
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.dist12.aa-nia.org>
 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.	847-849-3928 paulperini@att.net
Secretary	Kris M.	224-627-9768	kris.miller30@yahoo.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. dick71308@ameritech.net
Corrections	Frank M.	224-730-3045	aboutme615@gmail.com	Les M.	847-336-3275
Grapevine	Jackie S	224-247-8963	spencerjackie61@yahoo.com	Pete O.	224-381-9992 peter.choa@73.com
Public Information	Francis K.	847-505-2555		OPEN	
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	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net	OPEN	
Archive	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat609@gmail.com	Roy K.	847-293-4616
Special Events	Terry V.	847-650-2251	enchantedattic@hotmail.com	OPEN	
Webmaster	Rob S.	847-322-0264	r.a.smith3530@gmail.com	OPEN	