

September 2021

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**
September 19th
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 9: "Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Tradition 9: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Concept 9: "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Tradition 9:

My sobriety date is August 24, 2015.

I did not know it then, but my sobriety journey began when I moved to Grayslake, IL from Louisville, KY in 2007. At that time, I was escaping a marriage that was full of domestic violence to give my daughter and I a better life. My teenage daughter at the time did not understand and hated me for moving us to another state. In my mind I thought by moving to Illinois with the support of my sister was all that was needed to achieve this better lifestyle. I had no idea that I was an alcoholic or that alcoholism would soon take over my life, or should I say it already had.

(Continued on page 2)

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 languages and ASL)

Upcoming Events

Life's a Beach (Annual Women's open meeting)

on August 21st, 2021 at 4:30 pm fellowship, speaker at 5:30 pm at North Point Marina- Winthrop Harbor. Bring a lawn chair and dish/ dessert to share.

Waukegan Alano Club Picnic

August 29th from 12:00 pm til ?? at Bowen Park in Waukegan. Live Music by Crossroads. Food, fun, kid's games, door prizes, 50/50 raffle. Bring a dish to pass.

2021 Northern Illinois Area 20 Big Book Conference via Zoom!

Saturday, October 30th, 2021 from 8:30 am to 3:00.

32nd Annual Soberfest

November 19th- 21st, 2021 at Grand Geneva Hotel in Lake Geneva, WI. Speakers, dance, workshops, panels and much more for AA, Alateen and Alanon. See website for details: soberfest.org

District 12 Christmas Party

December 12th, 2021 from 12-6:00p at Gurnee Community Church. Great food, speaker (kids activity during speaker), Santa comes with a sleigh full of gifts for children.

Save the Date:

2022 State Conference on August 12th-14th, **2022** at Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL.

** Events may be hosted by private entities

(Continued from page 1, Tradition 9)

We moved into a nice condo in downtown Grayslake where my daughter attended Grayslake Central High School. During this transition, I became very depressed, isolated and began to drink more heavily. This caused some of my darkest moments. I continued to act like I was okay until I had lost complete control and it was clear I needed help.

My sister is one of the first people who brought up AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) to me and took me to my first meeting in Libertyville. She also introduced my daughter to ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics). This is where my journey with AA began. I got involved with multiple types of treatments and programs that helped with my depression and alcoholism. I eventually moved to the town of Waukegan. This is where I found the Oxford houses that I am truly grateful for.

While I was on this journey, my daughter graduated high school and then went on to graduate college with her Master's in Social Work. During this time she stayed involved in ACOA. I was introduced to the Waukegan Alano Club around this time and I remember helping prepare Thanksgiving dinner in the kitchen. There I was introduced to some "old timers" who to this day are still teaching me a lot.

I honestly believe that focusing on service helps your sobriety. Getting involved, being plugged in, staying in the middle of the herd and even being VOLUNTOLD to do things all gives you a sense of responsibility and helps your self-esteem. I have been on several different committees mostly by being voluntold and have been grateful for all of them. These committees have allowed me to help wherever I can.

I especially enjoy working with the newcomers, the most important person in the room, because someone took the time to help me. Staying plugged into service and committees has helped me from backsliding. I can honestly say that AA has changed mine and my daughter's life for the better and I am truly thankful for that. This is a lifetime journey, not something you graduate from.

Take it one day at a time, keep it simple, and easy does it.

Love your president of the Alano Waukegan Club

Like what you read? 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

How free do you want to be?

When I first came into these rooms I was filled with fears, resentments, and egotistical pride. I had just gone thru the very most traumatic time ever in my life. Some of those scars are still with me to this day. I truly and whole heartedly wanted what was in these rooms. I was scared to death inside of the unknown future ahead of me. I had just completely given up on anything that resembled happiness in my life. I hated myself for the things I had done. I lost everything again because of my addiction and alcoholism. I gave up inside completely...."I'm always going to be a screwup...why try anymore?". I lost things and friends I never ever wanted to lose.

My heart was shattered and beyond repair. My kids hated me and didn't care if they saw me or not anymore. I was a codependent person and had no idea what it meant to be on my own truly. I lost hope totally in myself. I didn't know how to love myself after the chaos I had put myself thru because of my self-centered choices and pride and ego. I destroyed my entire world.... again. I walked in after being out there again for 7 months.... I owe an act of God for that. A true miracle. A chance encounter at work in a moment of lucidity touched me deep inside to what was left of my spirit...hit my soul to its very core.

I walked in these rooms again on July 17th, 2020. I finally conceded to myself that I needed help. I couldn't do this on my own anymore. I asked a man to sponsor me. I worked harder than I ever had before reading the Big Book, the 12&12 and Joe McQ. I went to meetings daily...working full-time overnights and going to any length necessary even losing some sleep to make meetings.

The sacrifice well worth it for the HOPE I found in these rooms. The STRENGTH in each of you sitting in the chairs next to me gave me strength to keep working on myself when I felt unsure in those early days. The friends and brothers and sisters I met. The smiles...The hugs...The texts.... Stay plugged in at ANY COST kept me COMING BACK!

I worked those steps for the first time ever in my life HONESTLY. I did the 4th then the 5th step. I may have procrastinated a tad from fear, but I prayed and meditated until the strength and courage came to do it. You know what? It was actually EASY! It was then I realized that FEAR had no power over me anymore. Thru the faith in my Higher Power, I was able to truly set myself free of all those years of bondage to myself. I worked my 6th then my 7th step. I revisit those two steps the most as I continually find new character defects that become objectionable to me. I worked my 8th then my 9th- another sticking point for most it seems. Again, easier than you would think. Then I did step 10,11, and 12... All cured now, right? I'm good... I got this! Wrong. We constantly work these steps and principles in all our AFFAIRS.

My sponsor said, "How FREE do you want to be?". A lot of people in Recovery ask, "what am I going to get?". It's actually, "What are you willing to give away?". Today I would rather be HAPPY... than to right. Working a 9th step was a huge part of that. Making the amends in that step was freeing on a level I have never known before. Not everyone accepted my amends either and that's fine, but the important thing is that I cleared my side of the street! I owe my life to Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 step Program of Recovery it suggests.

Today I ask myself all the time.... Do I want to be right? Or Do I want to be Happy. If I choose Happy, I am able to use the Principles I was taught in this program and implement them in my daily life to live a virtually resentment free life in any given situation.

Tobias J.

Mailing Addresses for Donations:

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

**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**

Helpful Links:

www.aadistrict12.com

www.aa-nia.org

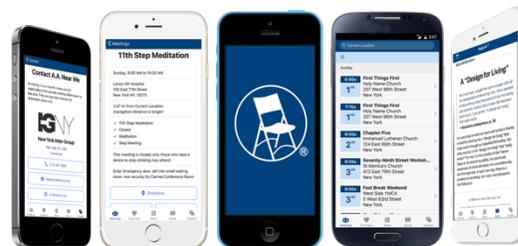
www.aa.org

www.aagrapevine.org

District 12 Hotline: 847-623-9660

Meeting Guide is a free of charge meeting finder app:

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



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

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Grapevine	Angelina P.			OPEN		
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Webmaster	Danny K	██████████	kratovild@gmail.com	Thadonia S.	██████████	thadoniasut@gmail.com

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.