

# September 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](http://www.aadistrict12.com)

**Next District**

**Meeting**

**September 18th 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 9:** "Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so when injure them or other."

**Tradition 9:** "A.A., as such, out 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 A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

For more on the concepts:

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-8\\_thetwelveconcepts.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-8_thetwelveconcepts.pdf)

Dear Alcohol,

Tonight, I am writing to you because you snuck into my dreams last night and reminded me how much terror you can relinquish onto my life. I have been harboring resentment of my new life without you in it but I have chosen the path to recovery, so this is a letter to say goodbye.

The idea that I needed you to have fun or be social has been a lie. I am starting to realize this as I have been to a wedding, a concert and even a birthday party without you. God has been my savior in each of these situations and I thank him every night.

I am finally seeing you for what you are, and I know that you're no good for me. So many regrets, hangovers, bad decisions, a thief to my memories and even my innocence taken from me. I don't need you. I never did. I am finally allowed to be myself. Without you, I am stronger. Without you, I am accomplishing more than I ever have. Without you, I am gaining confidence and self-love. Slowly I am learning that I am not alone because with you all I ever felt was loneliness.

As a child, I knew you but in a different way. Both my parents were controlled by you and drugs. I always told myself I would never do the things my parents did, especially if I had my own children. Sadly, I went down a similar path but God helped me walk through the doors of the ZB Alano Club. When I heard the similarities, I knew I belonged and felt an overwhelming feeling of relief. I realize now my parents had a disease caused only by you.

The lies I've told, the secrets I bear and the pain that made me feel so broke has kept me chained to you. It amazes me that tight grip you hold but God is stronger. As long as I continue to put my faith in God and this program, I know I am free from your chains.

I have a lot to learn, see and do in my life. This new freedom is allowing me to grow in ways I never imagined. The fear I anguished over is slowly passing as I live life without you. I'm eager to find more days without you but know that each day is a new beginning. Although I'd love to forget you, I know that's when you will creep back into my life. I am grateful what I have learned from you but even more grateful I woke up to find out who you truly are and know that I am better off without you. I will remind myself of why you are not meant to be in my life and with that I say goodbye.

Ashley



## Upcoming Events\*\*

### **Waukegan Alano Club Picnic**

August 28<sup>th</sup> 12:00- 5:00 pm  
Bowen Park- Waukegan, IL  
Live band, food, raffles, and games  
Bring a dish or dessert to pass

### **Backyard Camping at ZB Alano Club**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon to 5<sup>th</sup> at noon  
(Fellowship all Labor Day Weekend!)  
Bring your own camping supplies.  
Coordinate food needs and RSVP to  
Jackie at 224-304-6351.

### **Speakathon**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00- 5:00 pm  
Waukegan Alano Club  
Dinner available. \$5 min. donation

### **All Chicago Open**

September 24<sup>th</sup>- Door 6pm/Meeting 8pm  
Chicago State University at  
Jones Convocation Center  
9501 South King Drive, Chicago  
Parking \$10 and 7<sup>th</sup> tradition.

### **McHenry Soberfest**

November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
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-intergroup.org/meetings>

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you interested in carrying the message to Lake County Jail?  
The Waukegan Alano is hosting a training for the PREA test to make entry to the jail possible. Training will take an hour. Please bring your state ID and a laptop (if you have one).

Training: September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
\*\*\*\*\*

We have had some wonderful picnics this summer. Each event takes work and helpers to make it successful. Thank you to everyone who was of service. We make recovery look pretty darn good when we are working together, having fun and making memories.

\*\* Events may be hosted by private entities



### **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Life's a Beach Women's Meeting**

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship at 4:30, Speaker at 5:30  
Bring a chair and a dish/ dessert to pass  
North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, IL  
In case of rain, we will gather at the ZB Alano Club.

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](mailto: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.

### **District 12 News**

District Elections for District Committee Member (DCM), Alternate DCM, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer and Secretary. Nominations and Elections will be held on **November 20<sup>th</sup> at our 4 pm meeting**. Please consider running for a position or encourage someone else.

We also have many committee positions open or need alternates. To better serve our district, representation from **all** our clubs and meeting locations would be appreciated.

All General Service Representatives (GSRs) should attend our monthly GSR and district meetings to keep their meeting up to date with our district events, efforts, and goals. The GSR role is more than reading announcements!

**We are trying to get our directory updated. Please look over our district 12 directory and let us know if your meeting is still active, not listed or if any revisions need to be done to your listing. Please email: [district12newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:district12newsletter@yahoo.com) for changes.**

We are updating our process for the answering service. Our new numbers will be available soon.

Fall Assembly for the NIA Area 20 is September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a hybrid meeting (Zoom or at Lord of Life Church in Elburn, IL). For more details: [http://aa-nia.org/event/fall-election-assembly-and-board-meeting/?instance\\_id=742](http://aa-nia.org/event/fall-election-assembly-and-board-meeting/?instance_id=742)

District 12 meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm with a GSR meetings at 3:00. Meetings are held at the Waukegan Alano Club at 2419 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL.

Service is the Secret!

## Aggravated Assault... On Amends!



### Step 9 – “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

So, it would seem I wasn't the ONLY one I was harming in the process of my drinking and using after all. Hard to believe that I was so deep into my sickness that I believed that there was no one out there that cared about what happened to me or what I was doing to myself. I really allowed this sickness to convince me the only person my drug and alcohol abuse was hurting was myself.

Sitting down and putting the pen to paper, and the steps to work, has really been one of the most self-enlightening experiences this alcoholic has ever had. It's easy to overlook or ignore your defects and wrong doings when you have nothing tangible to hold you accountable. Writing them down though, that changes everything boy. Let me tell you. Looking down at that piece (or pieces, if you're as big of a mess as I happen to be) of paper and realizing that perhaps there just might be a little work to be done if we truly wish to improve our spiritual condition.

Working on my amends list took me a little bit. Naturally, there were plenty of people I was aware I owed amends to and was eager to get to. However, the individuals who I had resentments towards or felt my behavior was justified, now those took quite a few calls to my sponsor and some quiet time with my personal higher power for them to make it to my paper. Once my list was done, here came the anxiety. I was just sure making these amends was going to be the hardest and most excruciating thing. How could I possibly allow myself to be so vulnerable and take accountability for the messed-up things I have done to these people. These are just a few of the thoughts that flooded my mind any time I thought about starting to make these amends.

Luckily, I've always been a “jump in headfirst” kinda guy. So, I reviewed my list and found the most painless amends I could. Starting with family, I made my way around to those in my home and my immediate life apologizing and doing whatever I could to take responsibility for any damage I had caused. You know, being open and honest with the people in life who genuinely love you and care about you is such a beautiful experience. Here are all these people that have seen me at my absolute worst, some of which I had done just terrible things to, giving me the compassion, and understanding that I had not given them in the past. All I had to do was sit down and get real with them. This is the beauty of the 9<sup>th</sup> step.

It is around this part of the program where you really get to start putting these steps to work. While working your 9<sup>th</sup> step, you're starting to work your 10<sup>th</sup> step regularly to keep it current. Then you're constantly reviewing your 4<sup>th</sup> step to make sure you are being thorough with your daily inventory, all while practicing your step 11 when praying or meditating on these things. It was this part of the program that really opened my eyes to the beauty that is AA and the glory of working the 12 steps.

“If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps.”



#### 9<sup>th</sup> Step Prayer

God, we regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen

A.A. (Big Book), p. 79)

James- Waukegan, IL

*Would you like your event listed in the newsletter?*

*Please email*

*District12newsletter@yahoo.com*

**Mailing Addresses for Donations:**

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

Or donate using PayPal at  
[www.aadistrict12.com](http://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](http://www.aadistrict12.com)

<https://district10nia.org/>

[www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

[https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/meeting-guide](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide)

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

**Online Meetings:**

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

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

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.	████████	████████████████	Lindsay T.		
Grapevine	Barbara			Cindy		
Literature	Ken C.	████████	████████████████	OPEN		
Newsletter	Colleen M	████████	district12newsletter@yahoo.com	OPEN		
Public Information	Open			OPEN		
Special Events	Gimel T.	████████	████████████████	OPEN		
Webmaster	Danny K	████████	████████████████	Thadonia S.	████████	████████████████

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.