

NEW FRONTIERS

June 2003

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL A.A. MEMBERS OF
WESTERN NEW YORK AND THE NIAGARA FRONTIER
We request that this newsletter be kept within the Fellowship to insure anonymity.

AA Old-timer's Prayer

God keep me from the habit of thinking that I must volunteer in every meeting no matter what the topic. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details and give me wings to get to the point. Remind me to guard confidences and to keep still when I feel that it is necessary to share information "just for someone's own good." Release me from the need to straighten out everybody else's thinking and program.

God, I ask for the grace to listen to newcomers. Please help me to remember the patience with which others listened to me when I was new. Please seal my lips to giving advice, and help me to remember to share my experience, strength and hope. Remind me that my purpose is to fit myself to be of maximum service to You and the people around me.

Help me to remain teachable, God. Teach me (again!) the lesson that, occasionally, it is possible that I may be wrong and remind me of the freedom that I gain when I am able to promptly admit it and make amends where necessary. Help me to remember the difference between making amends and saying I'm sorry.

Help me to be a worker among workers, a friend among friends, and a drunk among drunks. Keep me from being a bleeding deacon, God, and help me to walk the path towards being an elder statesman. Keep me ever mindful that I cannot manage my own life. I don't want to be a saint. God, show me the way to seek You so that I may continue to grow along spiritual lines. Remind me to put Rule 62 into practice in my life. It is so easy to take myself too seriously.

Keep me free of gossip, character assassination, and judgment. Remind me that although I have humbly asked, my character defects and shortcomings arise when I least expect them. Help me to walk with serendipity, to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people and give me the grace to tell them so. Help me to see that You love each of Your children, and that You do not need my opinion of them or suggestions on what they might deserve.

Help me to be willing to accept Your answer to my prayers, whether or not it is the answer that I thought I wanted. You know that I have trouble with acceptance sometimes, God, so there are times when You will need to help me to be willing to be willing. Show me how to walk through life with grace, dignity, and my head held high, carrying Your message and practicing these principles in all my affairs.

And God, thank you for the people that You have put in my life, my family of origin and of AA, my sponsor, my sponsees, the people of my home group, the men who first reached out their hands to welcome me to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I know today, God, that I could not have walked these steps to get from where I was when I walked in the door, to the man that I am today, if it were not for the blessings You have given me through Your precious children.

From: Lamplighter Group

THANK YOU TO ALL

My father died a peaceful death on April 17th. I have been sober for 16 years. In that time I had developed a great friendship with my father due to the grace of God and this wonderful fellowship. In my shock and grief I felt overcome. I made three simple phone calls to my friends in AA. This opened up a floodgate of love and support. By Friday night my home was filled with people from this fellowship. In they came with love, prayers and also the simple necessities like food. Some of them had gotten to know my father and were experiencing their own grief. He was a friend to all he knew. Some of my friends had recently lost their own fathers. I could see that it was very difficult for them to come and re-experience their own losses. To them I would say you showed me the real meaning of friendship and sacrifice. At the meetings I have attended since my loss people have been willing to go deep into their own experiences with grief to tell me how to get through this without drinking.

My tears will continue to fall for a long time as well as those of my children and mother. Continue to pray for my family. Thank you all again and may the Peace of God fill your hearts and minds.....Love Carrie ~ Holland Group

I Was Lost But Now I'm Found

Brought into this world I didn't know – nor ever fit into. As life progressed I always felt separate from others, except but a few. Not knowing what we had in common. As I grew older I lost them, one by one. Now I stood alone – tired of being alone and set aside, only noticed when I could serve others needs. I tried to fit into their world, but always rejected. Never comfortable or accepted, I'd force my way in. What regret, also a lesson. It was like being caught in a tide, having no control or direction to save myself. "Why?" was a familiar question I asked my H.P. "How did this happen? Where did I go? Take me now – I'm ready to go – since I can't be useful – so sick and alone – take me now – take me home."

As I stood and hung my head I said, "God Help Me!" next thing I know, I'm calling a number I don't know. A pleasant voice answers, my emotions out of control. "I need help – please help me, I do not know, can you help me, please help me!" I felt comfort with this stranger on the other end of the phone. If I could hang on for 10 minutes, they will have someone call me. That day, July 17, Thurs, 1975, was the beginning for me to come out of the dark. Into the light of God's healing light – to surround me with others having the same plight. Shaking my hand, "Have a coffee, sit down." As I look around, folk looking familiar, even tho' the faces I do not know – I felt a kinship and comfort – as if I had come home. How did I know that feeling at all? Feeling displaced all my life – it was familiar from those few I once had in my life – but left me alone. What was that feeling I felt inside? Now I know – it's a spiritual kinship we share. Now we come together as one – reaching out to each other to stay in the lifeboat no need to drift away – unless our intellect takes us astray. We must keep connected one day at a time, hang to one another so we can become strong in the fellowship. The light shines upon us – to guide, guard and direct our path. If I were to break away from the fellowship, I leave myself in the dark and soon the world will swallow me up. Will I get back to make a new start? I'd rather stay in the fellowship light and take an unknown step forward in faith. To experience a new thing rather than following the old way. I must trust the fellowship – they always will tell me the truth. It's I that must set my pride aside and not think I'm so unique that 'it's different for me.' But I humble myself and admit I'm like others- I'll try your way – I'll do more than my best – forget about trying – Action is the word – and I must follow through. Getting to the other side will take time and work on my part. But the reward is great and now I don't hesitate to ever go forward, or to stand still and wait, whatever it takes - I want to do. My H.P. will always give me His Mercy and Grace to follow through.

Step Six: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

We then look at *Step Six*. We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all - every one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us to be willing.

Alcoholics Anonymous P. 76

Excerpts from the 12 & 12

... any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults - *without any reservations whatever* - has indeed come a long way spiritually.

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, (...) That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins (...)

So Step Six ... is AA's way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words "entirely ready" underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn.

Willingness ~ from: "Window of Opportunity"

"One definition of a bottom is the point when the last thing you lost or the next thing you are about to lose is more important to you than booze. That point is different for everyone, and some of us die before we get there. For me, though, it was clear. I was willing to do anything to get back into school.

"I went to my first A.A. meeting with absolutely no idea what A.A. was about.... God willing, in one month I will celebrate my fourteenth sober A.A. anniversary.... My life is filled with laughter again, something that alcohol had taken away."

© 2001, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, pages 425 - 426 and 430 - 431

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to AA should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An AA group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to AA, such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought never be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, AA managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside AA - and medically supervised. While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An AA group can bind itself to no one.

12 & 12 pg. 193

TOO YOUNG?

I was the average drunk on the street that I swore I would never become. I was seventeen years old, no friends to speak of and no place to call home. I was emotionally bankrupt and ready to give up.

When I started drinking at age eleven I had delusions of what alcohol actually did for me. I believed that the person I was when I was drunk was someone I could never be sober. I had a deep void inside of myself that was never filled with love, school or those "normal" gifts of life. So, alcohol numbed the pain I felt because of my situation.

First I drank only at parties swearing never by myself. Then, I drank by myself swearing never during the week. Each form of "controlled drinking" never worked, yet I still made justifications for every time I fulfilled one of them. It's only because of "this person" or "that situation."

I always believed that I was in control of my life. I would wake up swearing off alcohol forever, and fall asleep claiming my love to it. Yet the hours in between of obsession, craving and pain couldn't match up to the fears that alcohol removed from me.

Drinking became more than my friend, it was my way of life. I was in deep denial at the time, saying: "If I wanted to quit I would, I just don't want to." When I woke up with a hangover or puke on my clothes, I would tell myself that it was only because I didn't pace myself well enough or because others didn't take good enough care of me.

I don't remember exactly how I found the program in the beginning but what I do know is that I felt I had nothing to lose. I grasped the program with the last ounce of hope I had and prayed not to go through that hell again.

I've been sober for a period of time now and my life isn't perfect. I had expectations that I wouldn't have any problems and I've discovered that it isn't that way. I just deal with life on life's terms as those terms come about.

When people tell me that I am lucky that I didn't have to go through as much pain and suffering as they did because of my age, I don't understand. I drank my life away for six years and it mentally, spiritually and physically defeated me. I am lucky that I had the chance to receive recovery, yes, but also I am still an alcoholic, no matter what age.

But no matter how long I stay sober I know that the suggestions given in early recovery apply throughout my entire recovery.

I don't hang around old people places or things, I don't let myself act out old behaviors and I don't drink, one day at a time. I don't let myself become a victim of my circumstances, and I don't over whelm myself with self-pity and shame.

I DO go to a meeting, say a prayer and reach out to others. Service is vital to my recovery because I have to be willing to share what I have received with other sick and suffering alcoholics. I get out of myself; live my program and practice gratitude. Today, sobriety is a gift that I work hard to keep.

Jen-Alyn O.

SOMEBODY ONCE SAID THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND SAY; "GOOD MORNING, LORD," AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND SAY; "GOOD LORD, IT'S MORNING."

Fall Convention 2003

I am writing this letter to invite all of you who have never attended a convention before or have not been to one in a long time. Come out and meet new friends & say Hello to old ones.

I thank the first person who cared enough about my recovery to (invite) insist, demand that I go (come) - do something in AA. Fear always tells me not to go or try because I am not sure what to do or what to expect. That's where the 'we' in the first step stops being 'me.' People in the rooms asked me to come, stay, do something, be a part of, be of service and do something for somebody else. What a trip!

I have a year of sober events that I like to go to, God willing - Spring - Buffalo, Rochester, Erie Falls & Canada - Summer - Founders Day, Fireside, 7 Clan, Main & High Day of Sharing - Fall - Buffalo Convention, Hamilton, Dunnville Campout, Jamestown & my own Sober day in November, Group Anniversaries, friends Sober Day celebrations. These are just a few things that by the grace of God and AA that I do. Plus out of town meetings while on vacation.

If you are bored in AA it is because you are not doing anything in AA. Get busy in AA; it will carry over into all your affairs. You will be surprised how things will change in the other areas of your life. Become a member in good standing in AA, get interested in somebody else's recovery. You will find, beyond your wildest dreams, a new hope and a new freedom.

Jim R. - Spirit of Hope
Co-Chair 2003 Fall Convention

Things that make you go, HMMMMMMMMMMMMM!

A furious woman called an AA Intergroup office asking: "When are you people ever going to have an opening? My husband's told me for months he's still on the waiting list!"

Charles M., Huntsville, AL

Heard at a meeting:

It's not what I KNOW; It's what I DO!
Passed on by Eva M.

It's all those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

To ignore the facts does not change the facts.

Love, not time, heals all wounds.

Opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

Rule 62

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

One should keep his words soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

Sponsors are lighthouses not fog horns.

IS 12 STEP WORK OUT-OF-DATE?

Because of the generous and selfless work of the treatment community, 12th Step work has become obsolete. You need only deliver prospects to the nearest drying out place where paid professionals can guide them through rehabilitative therapy. In addition they can access other support agencies such as Social Services, General Relief, and Psychotherapy which the AA written spiritual program of recovery is not equipped to do. Just put your prospects on the rehabilitation line and your work is done. Better yet, let them find their own obscure way to rehabilitation so you can have more time to enjoy your benefits of your sobriety.

Recovery has certainly come a long way! We no longer have to waste hours of personal time outlining the program of recovery and how its' application has brought about a spiritual awakening which relieved our alcohol obsession. We really don't need to know anything about the program of recovery. We can outline the path of least resistance through the nearest recovery agency. For those who went before and had to actually go out to drunks' homes and do other distasteful service work we are grateful you were able to hang on until we developed this more efficient system of recovery.

Now that the need for 12th step work has been eliminated we should examine the rest of the program for inefficient practices that can be eliminated. There certainly is no need for prayer and meditation when we employ counseling and medication. What need is there for a daily moral inventory when others continue to ignore our personal needs? You know, the more you think about it, this whole idea of personal recovery through service to others is overrated. Maybe we should just eliminate and abolish the AA path. Who really needs to build character in today's age?

In order to eliminate AA we probably don't have to do anything different than we are already doing. We just need to keep justifying our refusal to do service work or to contribute to the Central Office and General Service. We can continue to put our own personal comfort above the needs of others and our fellowship will fail. WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!

Ozzie ~ Cazenovia Group

MY MIND IS OUT TO GET ME

Submitted by John H. ~ Sunday Morning Breakfast

I drank for just two reasons: To be what I was not and not to be what I was.

I must not compare the outside of you with the inside of me.

When I was drinking, I used to try to feel good by buying things I didn't need, with the money I didn't have, to impress people I didn't like.

God's delay in answering our prayers isn't God's denial.

You will have problems whether you stay sober or not.

Near you, alcoholics are dying helplessly like people in a sinking ship.... High and low, rich and poor, these are future fellows of Alcoholics Anonymous. Among them you will make lifelong friends. You will be bound to them with new and wonderful ties, for you will escape disaster together and you will commence shoulder to shoulder your common journey. Then you will know what it means to give of yourself that others may survive and rediscover life. You will learn the full meaning of 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

Interested in receiving the New Frontiers?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is a check or money order made payable to the AA Central Office earmarked the "New Frontiers" for \$ _____ for _____ copies.

Rates:

1	Copy	\$10.00	20 Copies	\$57.00
2	Copies	13.00	30 Copies	75.00
5	Copies	24.00	40 Copies	95.00
10	Copies	33.00	50 Copies	120.00
15	Copies	43.00	60 Copies	135.00

Mail to the Central Office:

845 Ellicott Square Building
295 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203-2412

IN MEMORIAM
Things We Can Not Change

Barb M. ~ Sober Saturday ~ 11 years

Elizabeth G. ~ Cold Springs ~ 30 years ~ Past delegate Panel 34

To all our members who have lost family or loved ones, our prayers are with you.

Let's remember them and all the others who passed on in our prayers

Share your Experience, Strength and Hope.

Please submit your articles to Central Office by the 15th for next months issue.

E-Mail address: buffalooa@hotmail.com

New Frontiers committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month - 7:00pm - St Michaels, corner of Warsaw & Electric in Lackawanna.

The Central Office of Western New York publishes the *New Frontiers* monthly. We are supported by your subscriptions and Central Office donations. The *New Frontiers* presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of Alcoholism. The staff reserves the right to edit any article for clarity and length. Articles will not be returned. Opinions expressed here are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply the endorsement by the Central Office of Western New York or Alcoholics Anonymous. (Exceptions: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS and other AA books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. Articles reprinted with permission of AA Grapevine, Inc. Are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.)

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

ACCEPTANCE

Sara S. 12y
James M. 24y
Mary Jo B. 32y

Amherst/Snyder

Jessica K. 3m
JoEllen H. 3m
Brian R. 3m
Colleen H. 3m
Marilyn F. 9m
Dean S. 9m
Darren R. 9m
Andy B. 1y
Beth U. 1y
Dana A. 1y
Scott C. 1y
Christina C. 2y
Mark W. 3y
Amy M. 4y
Cindy A. 4y
Dan R. 6y
Keith C. 6y
Michael B. 6y
John B. 7y
Chris H. 7y
Richard C. 8y
Martin P. 8y
Elizabeth S. 10y
David L. 14y
Patti S. 15y
Harriet G. 20y
Whitney D. 20y
Kate K. 20y
Sandy S. 20y
Bob G. 20y
Linda G. 20y
Bill O'C 23y
Mary Ann C. 24y

Cold Springs

Christina F. 9y
Arnold S. 12y
James W. 17y

Courage Group

Joy W. 6m
Kimberly Y. 6m
Rudy B. 13y
Peter F. 15y
Roger H. 19y
Mary Jo S. 20y
Bill O. C. 23y
Donna B.R. 28y

Ellicott Group

Bobby C. 15y
Mary M. 26y

Fireside

Barb P. 6m
Sam V. 6m
Cindy A. 4y
Tarrie K. 4y
Kathleen P. 5y
John B. 7y
Peter M. 8y
Jim H. 13y
John S. 15y
Marlene C. 21y

Giving

Lisa K. 9M

Holland

Ron B. 6M
Tom M. 9M
Tom W. 1Y
Bill O. 18Y

Kensington

Jeff L. 15y

Lakeshore

Tom B. 31y

LoveJoy

Paul G. 26y

N. Buffalo

Maggie M. 3m
Bob B. 3m
Russel D. 2y
Burt H. 3y
Courtney R. 4y
Paul L. 4y
Robert S. 4y
Judy P. 6y
Colleen N. 6y
Frank Z. 11y
Nelson G. 11y
Gerry S. 14y
Peter M. 21y

Rise & Shine

Anthony W. 3m
Kyle M. 6m
Liz B. 6m
Zelphia J. 6m
Fernando H. 6m
Marilyn F. 9m
Wanda I. 9m
James E. 1y
Dean M. 1y
Holly K. 2y
Mark J. 2y
Jerry G. 3y
Sandra C. 4y
Joe A. 6y
James Q. 7y
Rosa A. 7y
Sean S. 7y

Shirley J. 8y
Wanda R. 8y
Floyd C. 8y
Jerry S. 9y
Darryl L. 9y
Walter C. 10y
Orlando D. 11y
James M. 13y
Haywood E. 27y
Bob C. 27y

Sunday Third

Kathy S. 9y

Thruway

John B. 7y
Jim Mc. 13y
Donna F. 20y

Sun. Morning Br.

Ed A. 3m
Michael M. 1y
Colleen H. 2y
Jim McN. 13y
Cookie L. 18y

Victory

Annie H. 30y

We Care

Johnny G. 3m
Ron K. 1y
James Mc. 16y
Bob M. 17y

Welcome

Norman R. 7y
Debbie D. 11y
Sandy S. 20y
Joan D. 24y

Womens Westside

Charlotte J.

Group Anniversaries

Spiritual Progress
Sunrise court
Helping Hand
DeVeaux Disc.
Kenmore
Chevy #1
Downtown Men's
Lovejoy
Beginner's Table
Beginnings Women's
Let Go and Let God
Mercy
No. Java Mon.
No. Java Sun.
We Choose Life
Golden Slipper
Victory
Guiding Light
High Noon
Starting Over (pm)
No. Java Morning After
Matt Talbot
Any Age
Springville Tues Night
Spirit of Hope



KEEP COMIN'

We don't have to drink to die.

We buried him yesterday. The County Coroner had published the required notices for next of kin and nobody had claimed the body. It was just myself and his sponsor, no preacher even, the county doesn't pay for those.

Not much of send-off, and not the one David had asked for. A cheap coffin, a backhoe dug a hole, and that was it - another old AA gone.

He had been sober over 20 years and in AA over 30, a stern and rigid man who tried to soften his edges and never could.

He was a loner, a fringe-er, an isolated man at the edge of life's good things. He hung in there... and in the end hung himself. I don't know why; I can't know.

I know there had been a diagnosis of senile dementia, and I know that the doctor had added cancer to the list. But, I've seen AAs deal with such things before... I don't know why David decided he couldn't.

It isn't the first time I've been through this in Alcoholics Anonymous. I've known several over the years who just up and walked out life's door one day. Sober, but not happy. Sober, but not at peace. Sober, but they died of alcoholism.

Our disease doesn't need us to drink in order to kill us. I wish more folks knew that, and appreciated it.

Alcoholism is the only disease that is entirely capable of fighting back, of taking care of itself, and of emerging in new places and new forms when it isn't properly treated. That's because of the spiritual malady.

Most people think that has something to do with prayer or with God. It doesn't. It has to do with 'our spirit'... that force which animates, motivates and propels us.

As an alcoholic, my spirit is ill. It is flawed. My character, or basic nature, doesn't work right. At its root, it is a fundamental and irresolvable insecurity... a hole that can't ever be filled.

It is an instinct run rampant, a desperate need for acceptance and love that cannot be met. It hurts. It fills one with fear. The selfishness and self-centeredness of the alcoholic lies here... we are totally preoccupied with what is going on with ourselves on the inside.

The slings and arrows of experience warped by this need drive us to the fringe, and the voices of the committee in our head keep us there.

We are obsessed with ourselves, and from this condition of mind... the insanity of feelings gone haywire, we become self-medicators eventually.

We discover alcohol or something else... and the stuff quiets the voices, provides the relief we've never been able to find in any other way. It isn't any wonder we drink, or drug, the way we do.

And some of us don't develop an addiction... in attempting to meet these crying demands of our spirit become ill, we develop other malformations of behavior, and suffer in a hundred different ways.

God broke David's obsession to drink. But, I don't think David ever truly understood his

disease. I say that because I watched him struggle with those old unresolved issues of his heart for years.

His rigidity, coldness, aloofness, isolation and difficulty with other people were a reflection of the pain in his heart... of the disease of alcoholism gone deep inside, and still active.

Alcoholism didn't need David to drink in order to continue trying to kill him, and in the end... it succeeded. In the end, instead of self abandoned... David abandoned hope... and discovered a bitter end.

Our recovery from alcoholism through the Steps must be a three-fold process. It is not one dimensional. When we say, in AA, that we have a triangle... recovery, unity, service... we mean it.

In working the Steps, I clear a pathway for two purposes... first, to come into a group of human people and away from the fringe of society where I have spent most of my emotional life.

Secondly, to discover 'belonging' through service to the people within that group. It is only this entire, threefold process that heals. It is especially true for those of us who suffer from the spiritual malady to a great degree.

Perhaps the 12th Step says it best:

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps (recovery), we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics (service) and practice these principles in all our affairs (unity).

You see... I cannot hold back. I must not continue to suffer that shyness, aloneness, that overwhelming sense of self... in my affairs. I must get involved in a group of people to practice these principles in all my affairs.

Only the total approach is healing. Anything less is little more than driving my disease deep... and if I do that... it will continue to eat away, trying to destroy me.

It destroyed David. This is a memorial to an old AA who gave his best shot... and I think David ended up on the plus side. It wasn't his fault; he seemed to have been born that way.

There were a lot of old ideas about self that David could never muster the willingness to let go of. He is at rest now.

But it says somewhere that "no matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others."

David cannot speak to his experience any longer; I am speaking in his memory. And I think that if David could talk to us today, he'd say "Understand your disease thoroughly, and work the complete program of recovery"!

God Bless!

- author unknown

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JUNE 2003

MEETING CHANGES:

AGE DOESN'T MATTER GROUP that meets at St. Timothy's, Emsinger & East Park Dr. in Tonawanda is changing there meeting time from 8:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

NEW MEETING; QUESTIONS & ANSWERS; Thursday's, 7- 8 PM. Closed Meeting. St. Martin in the Field, 2587 Baseline Rd., Grand Island

NEW MEETING; HONEST SOLUTIONS; St. Mary's Church, School & Center St., Gowanda, Monday and Wednesday, 12 Noon.

NEW MEETING; Sunday's, the REDEEMERS will meet. Falconer & Thompson Streets, North Tonawanda, The Redeemers Church, 2:00 PM (two blocks east of the NT Police Station) Open Discussion.

NEW MEETING; RIDE SOBER, Saturday's at 9:00 AM. Open Meeting. Victory Assembly Of God Church, 688 Tonawanda Street, North Buffalo.

Three Legacies Group will now meet on Monday's & Thursday's, 8:00 PM Monday is a Closed meeting, Thursday will be open. Good Shepherd Church, 96 Jewett Pkwy, North Buffalo.

Midnight Discussion Group will resume meeting @ 11:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church, 781 Maple Rd, Amherst.

Living in the Solution will be starting a new Closed Disc. At 8:00 PM on Saturdays. The Amity Club, 340 Military Rd (corner of Hertel). Starts May 10th. Every 2nd Saturday will be a video or Speaker. Please Support.

The THANKFUL GROUP NEEDS SUPPORT on Friday's at 2 PM @ The Senior Center, 110 King St and Oakwood in East Aurora.

PLEASE NOTE

- **FYI:** The first week of June, I will be on vacation. The office will be open, with volunteer helper.
- **MOBILE MEETING- ARE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, HOMEBOUND OR CONFINED IN A NURSING HOME AND UNABLE TO GET TO A MEETING? IF SO, AND YOU WANT A MEETING BROUGHT TO YOU, CALL CENTRAL OFFICE AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER, SOMEONE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.**
- *If your meeting does not meet because of a holiday, could you please notify Central Office so we do not send people there? Thank you.*
- *We have a New Book; Experience, Strength & Hope; Stories From The First Three Editions Of Alcoholics Anonymous. Available in May thru the Central Office.*
- **POWERLESS** Group that meets at 5:30 PM needs support. 30 Rich St. at Genesee. Also, the group does not meet on Holiday's

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

~ June 1, Central Committee Meeting, 7 pm, 651 Washington Street, St. Michael's Parish. (Hosted by Main & High).

~ June 1, Corrections Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, 651 Washington Street, St. Michael's Parish.

~ June 8, CPC Meeting, 6:30 pm, Bacon memorial Presbyterian Church, 166-59th St., Niagara Falls.

~ June 18, New Frontiers Committee, 7:00 PM. St. Michaels Parish Center, Electric And Warsaw, Lackawanna, before the Victory meeting.

~ June 28, Public Information Committee will meet at Deerpark Presbyterian Church at 9:00 am.

~ June 28, Archives Committee Meeting, Archives are still available for group functions or Anniversaries, with 30 days notice.

~ June 26, 62nd Buffalo Fall Convention Meeting, Thursday. 7:00 PM @. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1080 Main Street, Buffalo

COMING EVENTS

- ~ June 8, **Lockport 2nd Annual AA Picnic**, Wide Waters Pavilion. 11:00 AM- dusk. Tickets \$3, 2-Speakers, Book Raffle, Games for the kids, 50/50, Hot Dogs & Hamburgers provided, Please bring a dish to pass, a chair, blankets & fishing poles for a good time.
- ~ June 20-22, **NORTHEAST 2003 REGIONAL FORUM**, hosted by Western NY Area 50, Come Meet Your: Chairperson Of General Service Board, AA World Service Board Members, Class A & B Trustees, GSO Staff Members, Grapevine Editors & Staff, N.E. Delegates (18 Areas). Holiday Inn Grand Island, 100 Whitehaven Rd, Grand Island. Registration requested, no registration fee. Register online @ www.aa.org.
- ~ June 27, **Lakeview Group**, 2nd Annual Hot Dog Roast, 6:30 PM – 8:15 PM followed by a Open Meeting at 8:30. Our Lady Of Perpetual Help, 2052 Lakeview Rd., Lakeview Bring A Dish, if you wish.
- ~ June 28, **Buffalo Group**, is celebrating AA's 68th Anniversary. 6 PM- Eating Meeting (Bring a dish if you wish), 8 PM- Speaker 241 Genesee St. corner at Michigan.
- ~ June 30, **Beginning's Women's Group**; is celebrating their 17th Anniversary. 8:00 PM. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 81 Burke at Huntley. Snacks and Desserts, Panel Speakers on the 10, 11 & 12th Steps. All Women are welcome.
- ~ July 11-13, **NY State Convention**, Crown Plaza Hotel, White Plains, NY. Registration Fee: \$12, & 38 with banquet.
- ~ July 6, **6th Anniversary, Main & High Group Day Of Sharing**, Saturday, 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1080 Main Street, Buffalo. Panels & Speaker - 50/50 - Hot Meal – Refreshments - Registration \$6.00.
- ~ July 18-20, **"We Humbly Asked Him" AA Men's Spiritual Weekend**. Speakers, Meetings, Fellowship, Great Food, Campfire. Registration Fee \$110, \$25 Deposit, flyers included or @ Central Office.
- ~ July 19, **The Remember When group**, will be celebrating our 41st Anniversary with a **Picnic** at LaSalle Park, Shelter #4. Food and music is **FREE**, but you may bring a dish to share if you wish. Come on out and enjoy yourself.
- ~ August 1, 2 & 3, **Any Age Annual Family Summer Campout**; Don Miller Park, 1601 Sweeney St., N. Tonawanda. Speakers, Music, Campfires, Games & Fellowship, Giant 50/50. Tickets are \$8.00/ person/day, or \$15.00 for the weekend. Children 8 and under are free. We provide Hot dogs, hamburgers, pop and coffee. Bring a dish to pass.
- ~ August 22, 23 & 24, **50th ANNUAL TRI-STATE ASSEMBLY**: Chautauqua, NY. Flyers in the office. \$10 gate fee + \$10(Pre)\$12 Registration. \$27 Banquet.
- ~ October 17-19, **33rd North East Regional Convention**, Southern New Jersey, Radisson Hotel. Registration \$26. Forms in the office.
- ~ October 17, 18 & 19, **BUFFALO FALL CONVENTION**: Buffalo Marriott Hotel, 1340 Millersport Hwy. Amherst. Registration: \$20, Registration & Banquet: \$45. Flyers are out, for more information call, Registration Chair: Charles L. (716) 881-1567 or Email: johnjczermerys@adelphia.net or Convention Chair: Terry (716) 853-0388
- ~ February 19-22, 40th Annual International AA Women's Conference, Buffalo Convention Center. Flyers available at the office.

6th STEP: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

6th TRADITION: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

6th CONCEPT; The Conference recognizes that chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM

... Yours in the Fellowship of the Spirit...

Terry Bateman.... Executive Secretary