

The Gateway

March 2011

District 14

HMB Area 48

New York

District 14: Altamont, Duanesburg, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Schenectady, Scotia

“Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination.” Big Book - page 162

Who's Your Sponsor?

There seem to be as many views on sponsorship as there are views on a Higher Power. And the opinions on these matters run a parallel range of extremes, from warm-and-fuzzy friend to wrathful tyrant. In meetings I have heard people recount with visible glee the fury and condemnation their sponsors hurl at them. "And then he said, 'You moron! You did that in the Third Step!'" Perhaps this model of sponsorship seeks to duplicate early childhood experiences at the hands of gruff-but innocuous parents. Other people share stories of selfless sponsors with unparalleled devotion to their sponsees—helping to bury the dog's ashes; attending birthing classes.

My own sponsors have included one chronic relapser, a sponsor who refused to do anything other than read alternating paragraphs out of the Big Book, a sponsor who seemed most interested in giving me marital advice and a very wise old woman who would just smile knowingly when I would rant, rave and diagnose myself. My sponsees have included people who wanted to move into my garage on a long-term basis, one who fired me after the first session and another who seemed to use text messaging as a form of all-night entertainment. My best sponsees have been the ones who said things that made me think, Oh no, I'm worse off than that, and I'm supposed to be the sponsor! They are the ones who make me launch into action as soon as we hang up the phone or say goodbye.

One of the most rewarding moments of sponsorship is to hear a Fifth Step. There is no more profound a speech that a sponsee will ever make, nor a more essential audience that a sponsor will ever be. If there has been a thorough, well-guided Fourth Step, an attentive sponsor and a proper invocation to both persons' Higher Powers, the Fifth Step is a monumental catalyst for transformation. When I say that I am a grateful alcoholic, one of the pillars of that gratitude is the ability to transform my rocky past into stepping-stones for my sponsee's journey. It's like turning poison into medicine. That is why we don't regret the past or wish to shut the door on it. A sponsor has the privilege of using past experience to benefit others.

Suzan C. San Francisco,

A.A. Grapevine



Step 3

Made a decision to turn out will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.

Tradition 3

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Pass it on...

Share your stories of experience, strength and hope; group anniversaries; jokes; and other AA related news!



LOVE AND TOLERANCE

Love and tolerance of others is out code.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p.84

I have found that I have to forgive others in all situations to maintain any real spiritual progress. The vital importance of forgiving may not be obvious to be at first sight, but my studies tell me that every great spiritual teacher has insisted strongly upon it.

I must forgive injuries, not just in words, or as a matter of form, but in my heart. I do this not for the other persons' sake, but for my own sake. Resentment, anger, or a desire to see someone punished, are things that rot my soul. Such things fasten my troubles to me with chains. They tie me to other problems that have nothing to do with my original problem.

P. 88

As Bill Sees It

“Hard on Ourselves, Considerate of Others”

We cannot disclose anything to our wives or our parents which will hurt them and make them unhappy. We have no right to save our own skins at their expense.

Such damaging parts of our story we tell to someone else who will understand, yet be unaffected. The rule is, we must be hard on ourselves, but always considerate of others.

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Good judgment will suggest that we ought to take our time in making amends to our families. It may be unwise at first to rehash certain harrowing episodes. While we may be quite willing to reveal the very worst, we must be sure to remember that we cannot buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others.

1. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p.74

2. TWELVE AND TWELVE, P. 84



We are NOT a glum lot...

W. L. OF MICHIGAN tells of another court case. A vagrant, brought before a judge for being drunk and disorderly, gave his name as "Colonel Willis."

"How could a high-ranking Army officer end up like you?" he was asked.

"Ain't ever been in the Army," said the lush. "That 'Colonel' in front of my name is like the 'Honorable' in front of yours, judge--it don't mean a thing."

Current District 14 Trusted Servants

D.C.M....(District Committee Member).....**Kathy H.**

Alternate DCM/Records.....**Tammy D.**

Treasurer**George D.**

Bridging the Gap**Gerry W.**

Cooperation with the Professional Community ..**Brian J.**

Corrections-Men's**Wilbur S.**

Corrections-Women's**Chris G .**

Functions **Fred C**

Newsletter Editor**Patti G.**

Public Information**John C.**

Special Needs**Debby W.**

Secretary.....**Alice M.**

Treatment**Mike H.**

Notes....

The Bridge Center... in Schenectady is now holding a men's speaker meeting on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in speaking at this meeting please contact

Gerry Wurtzel at 331-9729 or gwurtzel1@yahoo.com

Schenectady County Jail *** Meetings need volunteers...

Women's Jail Meeting - Chris G.
Men's Jail Meeting - Wilber S.

Contact any District 14 Committee member or your group GSR for more information.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

COME TO THE MEETING! OPEN TO ALL A.A. MEMBERS...

April 18, 2011 ... 7:35 PM—9 PM... Scotia United Methodist Church





HMB 2011 Convention November 4-6, 2011

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future
- Let it Begin With Us"

Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

542 Route 9
Fishkill, NY 12524
(845) 896-6281

Http://www.holidayinn.com

Single Rooms: \$75 per night (plus taxes) / Double Rooms: \$109 per night (plus taxes)

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

Please use Group Code "HMB".

Hotel Reservations MUST be secured by October 4, 2011.

Friends • Fellowship • Meetings & Speakers • Panels & Workshops

Pre-Registrants
will Receive an Extra
Free Shuttle Ticket for
an Archival Issue!

Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night
Saturday Night Banquet
Hosted by the Hudson Valley Cluster
(Districts 3, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17)

Pre-Registrants
will Receive an Extra
Free Shuttle Ticket for
an Archival Issue!

For More Information: Lori W. (518)387-1923 / Deb D. (845)331-0213

Serenity of the Catskills

In the City of the Hills

Saturday, October 22, 2011

5 pm Meet & Greet

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Speaker

John K.

Northeast Regional Trustee

Holiday Inn Oneonta

5206 State Highway 23 ☼ Oneonta, NY 13820
Honesty ² Open-Mindedness ² Willingness

Registration form available

contact d14news@yahoo.com



Upcoming Events

- 2/25-2/27/2011 NERAASA- Tarrytown, NY
- 3/11-13/2011 NERD - Ocean City NJ
- 3/19/2011 Area Fellowship Day- Hudson Valley
- 3/26/2011 Corrections Connection – Lake George
- 5/15/2011 Area Assembly (D14 to provide breakfast only)
- 5/20-5/22/2011 NE Regional Forum – Sturbridge, MA
- 6/11/2011 District 14 Unity Day—Central Park, Schenectady
- 6/18/2011 Fellowship Day Western Cluster
- 7/29-31/2011 NY State Convention SENY (Tarrytown)
- **8/19-21/2011** NYS Informational HMB (TBA)
- 9/10/2011 Election Assembly Eastern Cluster
- 10/15/2011 Area Assembly Central Cluster
- 11/4-6/2011 HMB Convention—Hudson Valley Cluster—(Fishkill)
- **11/20/2011** Fellowship Day Western (TBA)

Contributions to A.A. as a Whole

Tradition Seven:

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

No A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. Collective poverty initially a matter of necessity. Fear of exploitation. Necessity of separating the spiritual from the material. Decision to subsist on A.A. voluntary contributions only. Placing the responsibility of supporting A.A. headquarters directly upon A.A. members. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve is headquarters policy.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Please remember to use your group # when sending contributions.

District 14

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