



Vol. 17, No. 3
March 2018

- Next District Meeting: Sunday, March 25
- Submit content for the next issue no later than March 15

Any member of AA may contribute content for this newsletter. Page 4 includes information on how to submit content for publication.

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“I am responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

Northern Illinois Area 20

District 10, P. O. Box 854

Libertyville, IL 60048

www.district10nia.org

www.aa-nia.org

www.aa.org

www.aagrapevine.org

Answering Service

847-362-1811

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the thinking of Alcoholics Anonymous, NIA, District 10 or other Conscious Contact volunteers.

Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10, NIA

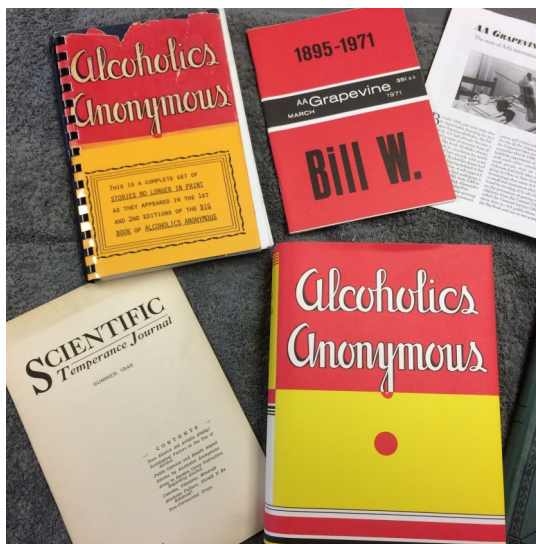
Special Free Event To Look Back on A.A. History

There is a saying sometimes attributed to Winston Churchill that might be applied as well to Alcoholics Anonymous history:

“How do we expect to know where we are going unless we know where we have been?” (This, or a similar quote, is also attributed to Martin Scorsese, James Baldwin, James Burke, and others.)

Please come and join the District 10 Archives Committee and Area 20 Archivist for what we hope is a very informative and inspirational program about how we have arrived where we are today. We'll increase our awareness of how miraculous it is that we are able to be part of this life-saving program!

Archival materials will be on display and



several presentations will take place. If you have any old, interesting, possibly historical AA-related books, pamphlets, papers, photos, etc. that you would like to donate to the District 10 archives, feel free to bring them!

Everyone is welcome; you can bring your family and friends, or let any interested professionals or students know about this event.

Light refreshments will be served. See our flyer for other information, or call Rick S. if you have questions.

Date: Saturday, April 21

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Serenity House, 1103 W. Park Ave. (Ill. Route 176), Libertyville IL 60048.

Lots to Discuss Before the April 22–28 A.A. GSC

Most of us won't attend the April 22–28 68th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York. But our voices can be heard there!

Between now and April 7, the General Service Representative (GSR) or Alternate GSR in every A.A. meeting should share the agenda items that will be discussed at the GSC. The GSRs should then bring any feedback or questions from their group to the Area 20 Pre General Service Conference Workshop (PGSCW) which will take place on April 7 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 40W605 IL Route 38, Elburn, IL.

The purpose of the PGSCW is to prepare Robert S., our Area 20 Delegate, to represent

Area 20 at the GSC. This is where the groups' conscience is heard at the Area level and carried through to the GSC in New York through Robert.

District 10 Secretary Steve B. has forwarded the GSC agenda items and background to our GSRs. GSRs should contact Steve if they did not receive the agenda documents.

Robert S. will be invited to report on his visit to the GSC at a future District 10 meeting. Because the agenda contains nearly 80 items divided into 13 sections, GSRs are encouraged to pick out any that may be of particular interest or concern to their group.

Step Three

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him.*”

Tradition Three

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

When My Sponsor Died—An Unexpected Part of My Sobriety

If I continue to work my A.A. program, attend A.A. meetings and keep the plug in the jug, on March 24, I will mark 33 years of sobriety. During that time, I have dealt with pain, loss, fear and confusion. For me, the toughest test of my program was when my sponsor, Don C., died.

Don technically was my second sponsor. Dick S. was the man who returned my call to the Chicago Answering Service on a Sunday evening and asked me if I wanted to attend an A.A. meeting the next day. Dick brought me to the Alano Club of Northside Chicago, 5555 N. Lincoln Ave., where I began my recovery.

While Dick helped me to get a solid foundation in the program, and guided me through my Fourth and Fifth Steps, as I approached my second A.A. anniversary, I began to feel that our sponsor/sponsee relationship had become tentative. Dick traveled a lot for business, and often wasn't available to talk in-person or by phone.

At the same time, Don C. was attending many of the same A.A. meetings that I did, and he almost always had something profound or timely to share in his comments that helped me. After thinking it over, I finally had a chance to talk with Dick and said that I was interested in asking Don C. to be my new sponsor. I remember how I tried to "let Dick down easy; it wasn't him...it was me!" Dick laughed and said it was no problem, and that Don was a great choice as a new sponsor. Besides, Dick was planning to retire and move to Florida soon, so this was all for the best.

When Don said he would be glad to be my sponsor, a powerful chapter in my sobriety began. Over the years, Don became more than a sponsor; he was my friend, my wife's friend, and an important voice of reason in my life. We were among his closest friends to be there when Don was hospitalized for an operation,



and a few years later when cancer took hold of him and eventually ended his life.

I was 20 years sober when Don died, and I had to mourn the loss of my friend, my mentor, and my long-time sponsor. As time went on, I realized that I had to face the question of what I would do about sponsorship. Honestly, I didn't WANT to have to find another sponsor. No one would know me like Don did. What if my new sponsor wanted me to do another Fourth and Fifth Step, just because that's what sponsors do?

My dislike of having to find a new sponsor led me to several years of "undercover sobriety." I went to meetings, helped others when I could, but didn't bring up the fact that I didn't have a sponsor—or that I didn't want one.

But I knew that something important was missing from my program—accountability and vulnerability. I needed to find someone who would get to know me, and be comfortable calling "BS" when I tried to be less than honest.

I started to open up at meetings that I was looking for a sponsor, and after some time, asked Paul C. to be my sponsor. Well, it wasn't much longer than a few months before Paul decided to move to Arizona, and I was sponsor-less once again.

I began to talk about needing a sponsor again at meetings, and after a meeting at the Serenity House in Libertyville, Jim M. offered to be my sponsor. He is my sponsor today, and has given me some good advice and encouragement.

My advice to anyone who may find themselves in a similar situation some day, would be to mourn the loss of your former sponsor, but push yourself to find someone else. They won't be a "replacement" for the former sponsor; they will be the person whom your Higher Power has put into your life when you needed it. —Tom K.

An Important Service Announcement: Your Service Is Needed!

If you regularly attend an A.A. meeting within District 10 that doesn't have an elected General Service Representative (GSR), please either step up to volunteer, or talk with other meeting regulars about selecting a GSR.

That person serves as the contact between your A.A. group, District 10 and Northern Illinois Area 20. Contact Kim T., our GSR Contact, to learn more.

In addition to GSRs, District 10 service work is completed by A.A. volunteers serving as a District officer or chairperson of a District 10 committee. We currently have a few open committee positions, and will provide information about them in this newsletter.

The first committees we will highlight are the Accessibilities and Literature Committees. If you would like to serve on a com-



mittee, please attend the next District meeting on Sunday, March 25 to learn more.

Accessibilities (Formerly Special Needs)

The Accessibilities Committee assists A.A. members who have a variety of challenges to accessing the A.A. message in A.A. meetings, Twelve Step work and other A.A. service.

Literature

The Literature Committee assures that A.A. literature is available for A.A. groups, service meetings and other A.A. events. Through displays, supplies of A.A. catalogs and order forms, and A.A. literature workshops, this committee helps A.A. members to carry the A.A. message through our literature. The Literature Committee also produces Beginner Packets which are made available to groups to provide to newcomers.

Words of Wisdom from the A.A. Grapevine & A.A. Literature

“Every sponsor is necessarily a leader. The stakes are huge. A human life, and usually the happiness of a whole family, hangs in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example—well, these attributes of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death.”

—A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W., April 1959,
“Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need,” *The Language of the Heart*

Events

March 10, 2018 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Kickoff	Tri-County Spring Conference “Never Alone Again” Panels, Alcathon, Speakers, Chili Lunch (\$1 per bowl) Day session \$1. Banquet and Dance: \$22	UAW Union Hall 3615 Washington St. Kenosha, WI 53144
March 17, 2018 4 p.m. Doors open 5 p.m. Dinner	St. Patrick's Day Extravaganza Join us for food, fellowship, and fun! Corned Beef and Cabbage, 50/50 raffle and much more. First come, first served! Bring a dish to pass! Donations accepted.	Waukegan Alano Club 24190 Washington St. Waukegan, IL. 60085 Renita Amy
March 23–25, 2018 Hotel Registration: 847-605-1234	Northern Illinois Area 20 2018 Spring Conference & Assembly “People Who Normally Would Not Mix” A.A. and Al-Anon Speakers. Panels and an Alcathon	Hyatt Regency Schaumburg 1800 E. Golf Road Schaumburg, IL 60173 John P. John C. 9
March 31, 2018	See You Next Tuesday 12x12 Spring Bowling Event Scotch doubles, \$10 single, \$15 couple. After the RLAAC Open meeting.	Lakes Bowl 601 Railroad Ave. Round Lake, IL Patrick F.
April 7, 2018 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Workshop begins	2018 NIA Pre General Service Conference Workshop Hosted by District 40 Lunch TBA/\$	Lord of Life Church 40W605 Rt. 38 Elburn, IL 60119 Lisa S.
April 21, 2018 1 to 3 p.m.	“On Anvils Of Experience” A Historical Experience of A.A. Open to Everyone Archival/Historic Displays, Informative Talks, Light refreshments.	Serenity House 1103 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176) Libertyville, IL 60048 Rick S. Steve R.
April 22, 2018 8 a.m. Coffee 9 a.m. Breakfast	Districts 10 & 12 Spring Breakfast 50/50 Raffle, Speaker:-Jimmy from Evanston. Tickets: \$18, purchase from your GSR, or contact Cortney T. (District 12) or Mike K. (District 10)	Bonnie Brook Golf Course 2800 N. Lewis Ave. Waukegan, IL. 60085

Send event information to Mark H.

All other news items should be submitted using the instructions printed at the top of page 4



Answering Service (Dec. 4–Jan. 22 Statistics)		Chair: Dave J.	Alternate: Victoria H.
Total Calls	41	Meeting Info	17
Spanish	1	12-Step	2
Solicitor	0	Wrong Number	3
Hang-up	7	Other Districts	1
Will call back	0	Website	2
		General Info	8
		Treatment Facility Info	0
		Halfway House Info	0
		Al-Anon	0

How to Submit Content to the *Conscious Contact* newsletter

1. Go to <http://district10nia.org/>
2. Hover over the “District Services and Committees” menu, and then click on the “Newsletter” submenu
3. Provide your name and either a phone number or email so that we can contact you if we have questions. Then type your content and click the “Submit” button.

District 10: PO Box 854, Libertyville, IL 60048**Northern Illinois Area:** PO Box 1056, Yorkville, IL 60560**General Service Office:** PO Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163**District 10 answering service:** 847-362-1811**2017 District 10 Officers (Confidential—this information is for A. A. use only.)**

Every member of AA is welcome at District 10 meetings. The meetings typically are held on the fourth Sunday of every month at St. Gilbert’s Catholic Church, 301 E. Belvidere Rd, Grayslake. 5:30 p.m. Tradition Meeting, followed at 6 p.m. by the District meeting. For more details, go to www.district10nia.org.

If the word, “OPEN,” appears after a District position, we are looking for someone to volunteer to serve. Learn more about each position and the volunteer commitment at an upcoming District meeting, or by contacting a District committee member.

For purposes of anonymity, contact information is deleted from this online version of the newsletter.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Bob P.			Kevin A.		
Secretary	Steve B.			Janet J.		
Treasurer	Cori S.			Cindy W.		
Accessibilities	OPEN			OPEN		
Answering Service	Dave J.			Victoria H		
Archives	Rick S.			Steve R.		
Bridging the Gap	Mike B.			Josh R.		
Corrections	Larry L.			OPEN		
C.P.C.	Dee E.			Terri G.		
Directory	Dana T.			Andy H.		
Events	Mike K.			Carolyn G.		
Grapevine	Brandon B.			OPEN		
GSR Contact	Kim T.			Earl N.		
Literature	Gaza D.			OPEN		
Newsletter	Tom K.			Mark H.		
Public Info.	Michael L.			Peter S.		
Treatment	Carl S.			Dave H.		
Website	Dawn O.			Charles K.		