



# Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10, NIA

Vol. 17, No. 6  
June 2018

- Next District Meeting: Sunday, June 24
- Submit content for the next issue no later than June 15

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

## In this issue

Page 2: A.A. History Event Recap

Page 3: Calendar of Events

Page 4: District contacts and how to submit content for this newsletter



“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](http://www.district10nia.org)

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

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

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

**Answering Service**

847-362-1811

## Avoid Problems of Money, Property and Prestige

I understand money problems. I've been searching for full-time work since being laid off in March 2017. The generous severance I received is long since spent—a good chunk of it paying off Chapter 13 bankruptcy debt a year earlier than scheduled.

Recently my brothers and I split an inheritance from my mother's estate. Gratitude for the security that the inheritance provides soon mixed with another thought: “What can we do with this money?”

I'm not the only recovering alcoholic with issues surrounding the purpose and use of money. Many of us who would routinely empty our wallets at a bar to be the “big shot” now find it difficult to place one crumpled dollar bill (or more) into the basket at A.A. meetings.

Just as the Twelve Steps of the A.A. Program guide and protect me as an individual member, the Twelve Traditions guide and protect A.A. as a whole.

Tradition Six warns us to avoid problems of money, property and prestige which otherwise can divert us from our primary purpose.

As *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* states, “Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout.”

From my past desire to be a big shot at the bar to my continuing enjoyment today of attention and affirmation from everyone in my life who chooses to provide them, I am in a constant state of flux between healthy ego deflation and necessary positive encouragement.

As we members of A.A. discuss matters of money, property and prestige that may impact any A.A. group or A.A. as a whole, Tradition Six provides wisdom and guidance hammered out on the “anvils of experience.”

Not coincidentally, that phrase was used as the title of a special event held in April and organized by the District 10 Archives Committee with help from Northern Illinois Area 20. Read more about that on page 2 of this newsletter. — Tom K., newsletter chair.

## Elections Scheduled for All District 10 Positions

Sept. 23 may seem like a long time from now, but this is a good time to announce that elections for District 10 officers, chairs and alternate chairs will be held on that date.

Between today and Sept. 23, please consider standing for a role on the District 10 team of volunteers.

Also, check whether your A.A. group has an active General Service Representative. If not, that would be a good business item for your next group business meeting.

Every A.A. group can select one of its members to serve as the group GSR and attend district meetings.

Every position that appears on page 4 of this newsletter will be up for election. District officers, committee chairs and alternate

committee chairs are elected by GSRs. District Officers, chairs and alternate chairs, as well as GSRs serve two-year terms.

Attend the next District 10 meeting on June 24 to learn more about any positions that interest you.

Anyone interested in serving as a District 10 officer, committee chair or alternate chair must “stand” for the position at a District 10 meeting. The candidate provides his/her sobriety date and other information that provides information on their program, such as their home group and whether they have a sponsor and/or sponsor others. We hope that you will consider this chance to serve!

### Step Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character.”

### Tradition Six

“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.”

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.

# Area 20/District 10 Archives Teams Present ‘History of A.A.’ Event

More than 50 people attended a special event on April 21 in Libertyville that brought A.A. history to life.

The event, “On Anvils of Experience,” was hosted by Rick S. and Steve R. of the District 10 Archives Committee and Northern Illinois Area 20, and held at the Serenity House in Libertyville.

In addition to several archival/historical displays, two speakers provided some insights into the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sue M., District 28 Archives Chair, provided a packet of information and links to archival information.

Sue focused her presentation on two of the first 17 A.A. members who sobered up in the Chicago Area: Earl T. and Sylvia K. Earl’s story, “He Sold Himself Short,” and Sylvia’s story, “Keys to the Kingdom,” both are in the Big Book.

Using A.A. literature including the Big Book, “A.A. Comes of Age” and “Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers,” Sue traced Earl’s path to sobriety and how it later intersected Sylvia’s. She also shared some information about Earl and Sylvia that she gleaned from the source A.A. books.

Ray M., Area 20 Archivist, pointed to a section of the event handout titled, “An Alcoholics Anonymous History in Northern Illinois Area 20, Second Issue.” Ray then said, “I could read from it to you, but that isn’t archives; that’s history. History is something we develop using archival material.”

Much archival material was available to examine during the “Anvils” event. Attendees received photocopies of the official program from the First International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous held in Cleveland in 1950. It appears that Bill W. autographed the original program.

The final event listed on the program was at 2 p.m. and was titled, “THE BIG MEETING!!” It had just two speakers: Dr. Bob and Bill W. This was Dr. Bob’s last public appearance, since he died in November 1950. At that meeting, A.A. members present formally adopted A.A.’s Twelve Traditions.

‘Anvils’ event attendees also received a copy of “Bulletin #6,” dated July 7, 1949, from A.A. General Service Headquarters. Among other items, the bulletin clarified that “not all pamphlets, cards and mimeographed material on AA subjects have been published by us and carry a ‘formal stamp of approval.’”

The Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation, as it was known then, concluded that “Group literature should be left free and clear for local distribution. We do try to keep track of which Group publishes what pamphlets—simply to answer inquiries correctly!” The bulletin then listed the nine “official A.A. publications, most of which were pamphlets priced at five cents.

Only two of the nine official publications cost more than a nickel in 1949: “Alcoholics Anonymous” (the Big Book) cost \$2.50 and a pamphlet titled “AA Tradition” cost a dime.

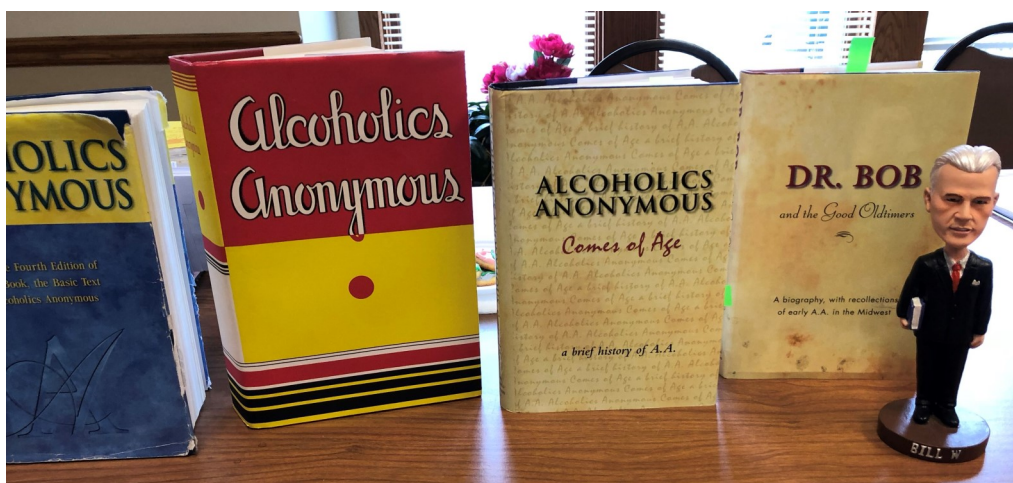


PHOTO ABOVE: Organizers displayed several examples of A.A. literature. The Bill W. bobblehead sits on the desk at the Serenity House meeting room where the “Anvils” event was held.

PHOTO BELOW: The District 10 Archives Committee members who organized the event made several posters like this one that provided interesting facts about A.A. history, divided by decades and years.

For additional information regarding A.A. history in Northern Illinois Area 20, check out this link on the NIA 20 website: [aa-nia.org/history](http://aa-nia.org/history).

## Events

<b>June 2, 2018</b> 5 p.m. Doors Open 5:30 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Speaker	<b>Winners and Beginners 2018 Anniversary Party</b> Speaker: Lauren S. from Chicago A free, open adult event, Bring a dish to pass	Messiah Lutheran Church 25225 W. Ivanhoe Rd. Wauconda, IL
<b>June 2, 2018</b> 8:30 p.m.	<b>Bonfire Speaker Meeting</b> Speaker Bonnie P. \$5 suggested donation. Bring Chairs	12538 Bairstow, Beach Park, IL. 60087
<b>June 9, 2018</b> 8 am registration 9 am meeting begins	<b>NIA Summer Assembly</b> Lunch TBA Spanish interpreter	Lord of Life Church 40W605 Rt. 38 Elburn, IL 60119
<b>June 9, 2018</b> 2-4:30 p.m. Steaks served 5 p.m. Speaker	<b>20th Annual Friends of Bill W. Steak Fry</b> 50/50 raffle, Softball game at noon-horseshoes and volleyball. \$15 Adult ticket, \$2 children's hot dog plate. Tickets must be purchased by Monday, June 4.	Harvard Moose Shelter, Harvard, IL 60033 Rt. 173—one mile west of IL Rte 14 Contact Mike, Fran, or Carole
<b>June 16, 2018</b> 5:15 p.m. Doors Open 6 p.m. Speaker	<b>The Monthly Social</b> Food and entertainment, \$5 donation suggested Park at Martin School, 24750 W. Dering Lane, Lake Villa Shuttle bus provided from 6-9:30 p.m.	Gateway Lake Villa 25480 W. Cedar Crest Lane, Lake Villa, IL. 60046
<b>June 22-14, 2018</b>	<b>18th Annual Midwest Motorcycle Alcoholics Anonymous Convention</b> A.A. and Al-Anon Speakers, Alcathon, pulled pork dinner, motorcycle rodeo, organized runs, hospitality area, merchandise and food vendors. Pre-registration \$40	Winnebago Fairgrounds 500 West First Street Pecatonica, IL 61063 www.MMAAC.org Mike O. or Russ I.
<b>June 24, 2018</b> 5:30 p.m. Traditions 6 p.m. GSR meeting	<b>District 10 GSR Meeting</b>	St. Gilberts Church 301 W. Belvidere Rd. (Rt. 120) Grayslake, IL 60030 East Parking Lot
<b>July 22, 2018</b> NOTE TIME CHANGES: 5 p.m. Traditions 5:30 p.m. GSR meeting	<b>District 10 GSR Meeting</b> Will include a 20-minute overview of the 2018 General Service Conference by Area 20 Delegate Robert S.	NOTE LOCATION CHANGE: Serenity House 1103 W. Park Ave. (IL Rte. 176) Libertyville, IL 60048
<b>July 29, 2018</b> Noon to 4 p.m.	<b>District 10 Picnic</b> Volunteers needed!	Half Day Forest Preserve 24255 Rt. 21, Vernon Hills, IL
<b>August 10–12, 2018</b>	<b>31st Annual Wolf River–Nicolet AA Camping Trip</b> Reserve camp sites or cabins early. Saturday night open speaker and bonfire– Lori W. –Wausaw, WI. Meetings, rafting, hiking trails, volleyball.	Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort Campground. N3494 Hy. 55, White Lake, WI. 54491 www.bearpawoutdoors.com Justin B. or sobercamp30@gmail.com
<b>August 26, 2018</b> Noon–4 p.m.	<b>Round Lake Area Alano Club Annual Picnic</b> \$5 donation for food and drink, (Bring a dish to pass) Kid games, bags, volleyball, 50/50 raffle	Nippersink Forest Preserve, Shelter C. Rt. 120, between Fairfield and Cedar Lake Roads

Send event information to Mark H.

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



<b>Answering Service (March 19 – April 16 Statistics)</b>		<b>Chair: Dave J.</b>	<b>Alternate: Victoria H.</b>
Total Calls	17	Meeting Info	6
Spanish	0	General Info	3
Solicitor	0	12-Step	2
Hang-up	4	Treatment Facility Info	0
Will call back	0	Wrong Number	0
		Other Districts	2
		Website	0
			Halfway House Info
			Al-Anon

**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:** NIA 20, Ltd., PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524**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](http://www.district10nia.org).

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

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.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Bob P.			Kevin A.		
Secretary	Steve B.			Janet J.		
Treasurer	Cori S.			Cindy W.		
Accessibilities	Rachel B.			Bill J.		
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.			Angelina K.		
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	Charles K.			OPEN		