



# Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10, NIA

Vol. 16, No. 6

June 2017

• Next District Meeting:  
June 25

• 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 Service Faire is Coming!

Page 3: Selected AA events

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



“I am responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere, reach-  
es 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

## Step Six: All Defects of Character Don't Vanish

If I had any hope that  
working the Twelve Steps  
would perfect me, reading  
about Step Six in *Twelve  
Steps and Twelve Traditions*  
brought me back to reality:

“It is nowhere evident,  
at least in this life, that our  
Creator expects us fully to  
eliminate our instinctual  
drives. So far as we know, it  
is nowhere on the record that God has com-  
pletely removed from any human being all his  
natural drives.”

Even the phrase, “were entirely ready,”  
has to be looked at from the human perspec-  
tive. Although our Higher Power can remove  
our defects of character, that shouldn't be the  
expectation of a recovering alcoholic working  
Step Six. Anyway, who among us can say with  
any degree of honesty that we are entirely



ready to have God remove EVERY one of  
our defects of character?

The book explains that only Step One can  
be practiced perfectly. “The remaining eleven  
Steps state perfect ideals. They are goals to-  
ward which we look, and the measuring sticks  
by which we estimate our progress.”

Progress, not perfection! — Tom K.  
(home group: Sunday 8:30 a.m. Big Book  
Study, Serenity House, Libertyville.)

<u>Step Six</u>	<u>Tradition Six</u>
“Were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character.”	“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or out- side enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

## Tradition Six: Keeping the ‘Main Thing’....

From Tradition Six in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, Alcoholics Anonymous:

“The moment that we saw we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it  
seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things.”

“Maybe these places would make great sums of money to carry on our other good works.”

“We'd spill A.A. into the dark regions of dope addiction and criminality.”

“It stood to reason that if alcoholism could be licked, so could any problem.”

“Why, we thought, our Society of Alcoholics Anonymous might prove to be the spearhead  
of a new spiritual advance! We might transform the world.”

Gee, who says recovering alcoholics dream big...and have problems facing reality?

Actually, the Sixth Tradition evolved as our early members did see the very real and unin-  
tended results of trying to apply the A.A. approach and reputation to related facilities and out-  
side enterprises. It became clear that A.A. as a whole, along with our individual members,  
would best be safeguarded by ensuring that we never endorse any related enterprise, and never  
“lend the A.A. name to any cause other than our own.”

As we reject the notion of diverting from our primary purpose, we remember the value of  
our personal and combined humility and singleness of purpose. A.A. continues to reach the  
alcoholic who still suffers while “keeping the main thing, the main thing.”—Tom K.

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.

## Would Ye Like To Serve?

# Join Us June 17 at the Combined Districts 10, 11 and 12 Service Faire!

When district volunteers were beginning to plan a special event to promote service, they thought of calling it a "Service Carnival."

But since the concept of the event was more like the interactions and information-sharing that occur during events like a job fair, they decided to call the upcoming event a "Service Faire."

"I put an 'e' on the end of Fair to be funny," said Kevin A., District 10 Alternate District Chair. Kevin is among several volunteers in District 10, District 11, District 12 and the Northern Illinois Area who have organized this collaborative service event.

The Service Faire will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 17 at the Lake Villa Township Community Center West Campus, 37850 Route 59.

Visitors will be able to talk with Area and District representatives to learn more about the many opportunities that exist to serve A.A. members and the community. "This will be very inter-



**The June 17 Districts 10, 11 and 12 Service Faire will be more like the first photo than the second. We will have fun and offer a free lunch; just don't ask for a turkey leg! (Stock photos of non-A.A. members)**

active, and people can find out more about the various roles, as well as where the dollar they drop into the basket in A.A. meetings is going," Kevin said. "My hope is to drum up interest in general service work, and also to help put faces to the names of our committees and their chairs and alternates. So a GSR (General Service Representative) from an A.A. meeting will know where to go to get Big Books, or to sign up for the Answering Service."

For more information, see Kevin A.'s contact information on page 4, where you also can see the full list of committees that will be represented at the Service Faire.

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

"Out of the Hat," New York, New York,  
February 1990 AA Grapevine



*"It was at my home group that I learned to trust the experiences of the early groups with meetings. We have a Traditions meeting once a month and when I was new and heard the Traditions read out loud, the experiences of the early AA meetings gave me the first notion that real people—drunks like me—started this program."*

## Update: Internet Anonymity & A.A.

As technology allows us to communicate faster and further, members of A.A. are facing new questions and concerns regarding how to protect one's anonymity in the digital age.



For an update on this topic, plan to attend the July 23 District 10 GSR meeting. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., following a Traditions Meeting at 5:30 p.m., and will be held at the Serenity House, 1103 W. Park Ave. (Route 176), Libertyville, IL.

John C., Northern Illinois Area 20 Website Administrator, will share information that he has obtained recently from sources including the National A.A. Technology Workshop (NAATW) in Winston Salem, NC.

John will present:

- A summary of the A.A. General Service Office's current position on internet anonymity
- A general outlook on some current digital trends in AA
- An overview of the Area 20 website and, if time allows,
- A brief summary of the NAATW

Questions from attendees will be welcomed.

## Events

<b>June 3, 2017</b> 3:30 p.m. Tournament 8 p.m. Open Speaker Meeting	<b>Potluck and Bags Tournament</b> \$5 entry fee for tournament. Bring a dish to pass, or make a donation for food.	Round Lake Area Alano Club 37023 N. IL rt. 83, Lake Villa, IL 60046 Info: SeeYouNextTues12x12@gmail.com
<b>June 10, 2017</b> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	<b>NIA Summer Assembly/Post GSC Report</b>	Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL Route 38 Elburn, IL 60119
<b>June 16, 2017</b> Food and fellowship 7 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.	<b>42nd Annual Salem Big Book Open Meeting and Cookout.</b> The group will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. Please bring a dish to pass. Speaker, Bruce M. from Twin Lakes, WI.	Salem United Methodist Church 25130 85th Ave. Salem, WI
<b>June 16–18, 2017</b>	<b>17th Annual Midwest Motorcyclists A.A. Convention (MMAAC)</b> Weekend registration, \$50 at the gate. One-day registration \$20 at the gate. Pulled pork dinner \$7	Winnebago County Fairgrounds Pecatonica, IL 61063 www.MMAAC.org
<b>June 17, 2017</b> 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	<b>Combined Districts 10, 11 and 12 Service Faire</b> Learn about the many ways we carry the message and serve others. Opportunities to join a committee and remain active in service work. Lunch provided.	Lake Villa Township Community Center West 37850 Route 59, Lake Villa, IL 60046
<b>June 25, 2017</b> 3 p.m.	<b>2018 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning Meeting</b> Held on the fourth Sunday of every month.	St. Gilbert's Catholic Church 301 E. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030
<b>June 25, 2017</b> 5:30 p.m. Traditions mtg 6 p.m. District mtg	<b>District 10 GSR meeting</b>	St. Gilbert's Catholic Church 301 E. Belvidere Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030
<b>July 16, 2017</b> Noon to dusk	<b>District 12 Summer Bash</b> Speaker Emma W. (2019 ISCYPAA bid chairperson)	Greenbelt Forest Preserve, Shelter A 1110 S. Green Bay Rd, North Chicago, IL 60035
<b>July 30, 2017</b> Noon to dusk Speaker at 2 p.m.	<b>District 10 Picnic</b> \$5 donation, 50/50 raffle, bring a dish to pass Volunteers needed!	Half Day Forest Preserve 24255 Rt. 21, Vernon Hills, IL
<b>Aug. 11–13, 2017</b>	<b>30th Annual Wolf River–Nicolet AA Camping Trip</b> Campsites (up to 6 people) \$22 per night Cabins from \$90 per night Meetings, rafting, hiking, volleyball Saturday night speaker: Susan W., Grayslake, IL	Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort & Campground N3494 Hwy. 55, White Lake, WI 54491 www.bearpawoutdoors.com

If you have an event that you would like us to include, or see something to correct in our listing, please email the Conscious Contact newsletter chair, Tom K. All other news items should be submitted using the instructions printed at the top of page 4.



<b>Answering Service (April Statistics)</b>		<b>Chair: Dave J.</b>	<b>Alternate: Victoria H.</b>
Total Calls	26	Meeting Info	12
Spanish	2	General Info	7
Solicitor	0	12-Step	0
Hang-up	2	Wrong Number	1
Will call back	0	Other Districts	1
		Website	0
		Alanon	1

**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. The July 23 meeting will be at the Serenity House, Libertyville 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.			OPEN		
Treasurer	Cori S.			Cindy W.		
Directory	Dana T.			Andy H.		
Answering Service	Dave J.			Victoria H		
Treatment	Carl S.			Dave H.		
Public Info.	Michael L.			OPEN		
C.P.C.	Dee E.			OPEN		
Bridging the Gap	Mike B.			Josh R.		
Literature	Gaza D.			OPEN		
GSR Contact	Kim T.			Earl N.		
Corrections	Lark W.			OPEN		
Newsletter	Tom K.			Mark H.		
Archives	Rick S.			Steve R.		
Grapevine	Brandon B.			Matt R.		
Events	Joyce W.			Carolyn G.		
Website	Dawn O.			Charles K.		
Special Needs	David I.			Heidi G.		