



Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10, NIA

Vol. 17, No. 4
April 2018

- Next District Meeting: Sunday, April 22
- Submit content for the next issue no later than April 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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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

www.aa-nia.org

www.aa.org

www.aagrapevine.org

Answering Service

847-362-1811

Spirituality, Prayers and Tolerance in A.A. Groups

One of the agenda items that will be discussed during the April 22-28 68th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York will be a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The Responsibility Statement is printed on page 1 of this newsletter, to the left.

The A.A. Preamble touches on a topic that I have heard mentioned several times in recent weeks; that is, whether A.A. groups are being insensitive or intolerant when they end their meetings by reciting “The Lord’s Prayer.”

The A.A. Preamble includes the statement: “A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

Do we ignore that part of the A.A. Preamble when we end an A.A. meeting with The Lord’s Prayer? That question was raised recently by the editor of *Concepts*, a quarterly

newsletter published by the Northern Illinois Area of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In that issue, the “Editor’s Corner” and a separate article titled, “Atheists in A.A.,” caused me to consider how someone who is not Christian might be taken aback by being asked to recite a Christian prayer in an A.A. meeting. Read the issue here:

http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/pdf/newsletter/Concepts_Spring_2018.pdf.

For transparency, I want to state that I am a life-long Christian. I have always been comfortable reciting The Lord’s Prayer in A.A.

But the Concepts articles and recent comments from non-Christians in A.A. meetings that I have attended prompted me to bring this question up in our District 10 newsletter.

Talk about it in your group meetings. If you can, send me your thoughts on the topic.

My hope is that A.A. continues to be a tolerant place where anyone who has a desire to stop drinking can find hope and support.

For that, we are ALL responsible, aren’t we?—Tom K.

Musings on Step 3 and My Place in the Universe

Although I had no formal religious training as a child, I was taught to believe in, and pray typical children’s prayers, to a God that I envisioned as an old, white-bearded man. The message conveyed to me by my family was that I was a special person who was entitled to all I wanted—if I could figure out a way to get it, one way or another. I did not have a very close relationship with my mother, but idolized my father, who was 55 years old when I was born. He was 20 years older than my mother, and an extremely hard-working, hard-playing, hard-drinking authoritarian who did not spare the belt and had a scary volatile temper. A combination of genetics, anxiety and circumstances allowed me

to begin my alcoholism at an early age. My parents did not discourage what they knew of my drinking; not that it would have made any difference, as I had what today would be diagnosed as Oppositional Defiant Disorder. In plain English, I was a belligerent, spoiled brat. The philosophy of “Do it to them before they do it to you,” served me well, I thought, for many years. I always got what I wanted, and believed that if I did something, it must be right because I did it. I probably crossed the line from alcohol abuse to addiction at some point during my college years. By age 24, I was married with two children, a rising star in my profession, running the

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Step Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

Serving Up More Opportunities for You to Participate in District 10

We were thrilled at the February District 10 meeting when Rachel B., a fellow member of A.A., volunteered to fill the open position of Accessibilities Committee Chair.

That leaves only four District 10 committees with an opening for Alternate Chairs. The Alternate Chair works with the Committee Chair and represents the committee when the Chair cannot.

If you, or someone you know, would consider serving the District through December as an Alternate Chair of one of the following committees, please attend the April 22 District 10 meeting. You will be able to learn more about the role, and will be able to volunteer for the position.

Service work is an important part of our A.A. program, and your service would be greatly appreciated! We are looking for Alternate Chairs for the following committees:

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.

Corrections

The Corrections Committee coordinates the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alco-



holics behind the walls, and to set up means of smoothing the way from the facility to the larger A.A. community through prerelease contacts. The NIA District 10 Corrections Committee sponsors regular meetings Monday nights at 7:30 pm at the Lake County Jail. Volunteers are needed, and must go through a background check to facilitate meetings within county facilities.

Grapevine

The AA Grapevine is the official International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Grapevine is available as a print subscription as well as available online. The District 10 Grapevine Committee is the link between our district and the Grapevine.

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 available to groups to provide to newcomers. You can purchase Beginner Packets for yourself or your group at the monthly District 10 Meeting. The cost per packet is 80 cents.



Musings on Step 3 (Continued from page 1)

family business, serving on various civic boards and committees (where, by the way, they held master classes in drinking) and had developed a chronic case of chemical dependence and addiction.

And then my father, who never missed a day of work, was stopped by congestive heart failure. I prayed to God to make him well, and he got sicker. I prayed to God to take him home, and he lived and suffered. I fired God. God was in charge of everything in the world except me, and if He couldn't comply with a simple request, what good was He?

I drank and drugged and behaved reprehensibly for another 21 years. When my body and mind were both broken, I threw my hands up and begged, "Please God, help me." I had no fight left

in me. I left myself to God's mercy. There would be no negotiation. He began to help me as soon as I got out of my own way.

Over the last 25 years, I have learned that God loves me the same no matter what I do. He will never do for me what He knows I can do for myself, but will always give me what I need even if I am unaware that I need it. I no longer pray for what I want for myself or anyone else (but I do offer a preference at times). I am no longer God's equal. I pray for the strength to stay sober and to get through any challenges life brings. I go to God now with love, respect and confidence, rather than fear and anger. I try to do my part knowing that He will do His. I don't have to be the best, have the most or pretend I am what I am not. As my dear friend, Ev, says, "It's good to get up in the morning and ask God what we're going to do today." —Mike B.



Events

April 7, 2018 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Workshop begins	2018 NIA Pre General Service Conference Workshop Hosted by District 40 Lunch available for purchase	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
April 22, 2018 5:30 p.m. Traditions meeting 6 p.m. GSR meeting	District 10 GSR Meeting	St. Gilbert’s Catholic Church 301 W. Belvidere Road, Grayslake, IL 60030 East parking lot
May 12, 2018 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Opening	NIA Spring Committee Meeting	Lord of Life Church 40W605 Rt. 38 Elburn, IL 60119
April 27, 2018 4-8 P.M.	Bridge House Spaghetti Dinner Adults \$10, Children \$5 (12 and under) Spaghetti with homemade sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert	Bridge House 3016 Grand Ave. Waukegan, IL 60085 Cristina S. Alex S.
June 2, 2018 5 p.m. Doors Open 5:30 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Speaker	Winners and Beginners 2018 Anniversary Party Speaker: Lauren S. from Chicago A free, open adult event Bring a dish to pass	Messiah Lutheran Church 25225 W. Ivanhoe Rd. Wauconda, IL
June 22-14, 2018	18th Annual Midwest Motorcycle Alcoholics Anonymous Convention A.A. and Al-Anon Speakers, Alcahthon, 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. Russ I.

Send event information to Mark H.

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

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

“The expression of true humility is the willingness to serve others without expectation of reward, prestige or recognition for our services to them. It should be done in a spirit of cheerfulness and joy.”—Chicago, IL, November 1949, “Mail Call: Step Seven,” *Step By Step*



Answering Service (Jan. 27–Feb. 19 Statistics)		Chair: Dave J.	Alternate: Victoria H.
Total Calls	28	Meeting Info	6
Spanish	1	12-Step	4
Solicitor	2	Wrong Number	1
Hang-up	5	Other Districts	2
Will call back	0	Website	0
		General Info	7
		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:** 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.

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	Rachel B.			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.		