



Conscious Contact

Information and Inspiration from District 10, NIA

As Peter Sees It

Vol. 20, No. 5

June 2021

- Next District Meeting
Sunday, June 27th at 6PM
Zoom, Live and Hybrid. Traditions meeting at 5:30PM St. Gilberts Church. Grayslake, IL 60030

- Submit content for the next issue no later than June 21st.

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

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Pg. 4 District contacts, How to submit to Conscious Contact Newsletter, From the Newsletter Chair



"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."

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District 10, P. O. Box 854
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www.district10nia.org
www.aa-nia.org

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.

At one of my favorite meetings, we read the last two paragraphs on page 162 of the BB. I have heard it many times and have read it myself more than a few times. For many of us, including until recently myself, there may be a problem in how we interpret what Bill has written. Just what is the Great Fact for us?

The penultimate paragraph (Paragraph 1) contains the following two sentences: "See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us".

The last paragraph (Paragraph 2) begins with the following four sentences: "Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us."

Whether we are reading these paragraphs ourselves or they are being read to us, there is usually not much of a pause between Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2, so many of us come to believe that the great fact for us is presented in Paragraph 2, i.e., "Abandon yourself to God....."

Actually, the Great Fact for us is: "See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others." When Bill writes: "This is the Great Fact for us.", the pronoun "this" refers to the previous sentence. He then ends Paragraph 1. Paragraph 2 begins a new thought, namely, a few instructions on how to make our relationship with Him right. Those four sentences effectively put our program into a nutshell!

Peter S. (GS-JSR)

Entirely Ready

How many times have I been told that Step 6 and Step 7 are only discussed briefly in the big book, specifically on page 76. A more in depth study can be found in the 12 and 12 which gives some excellent insight on the matter.

My personal experience following my 5th step was this. It was recommended I go home and find some place to be quiet as the book and my sponsor recommended, review the first 5 steps and examine to see that I was as thorough as I could be. I was to be quiet and reflect on them and what lies ahead. I thought I was going to have an epiphany of some sort as I sat in my closed office at home with my young sons making a racket downstairs. There was no sun beam or shaft

of light that came in through the window and I did not experience riotous excitement nor serenity. It was then that I realized that this was going to take quite a bit more time. It was also no longer just about alcohol.

I had just given titles to the "defects of character." The 12 and 12 describes them as the seven sins. My fourth step, Big Book, and sponsor described them as selfishness, self-seeking, fear, pride, resentment, ego, just to name a few. Instincts gone awry! As I looked at these, it was easy to see how they were doing me

Step Six

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

The Sixth Tradition

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Continued from page one; Entirely Ready

absolutely no good and in fact continued practice of them to new levels of perfection would likely lead me to drink. But for the first time in my life I was not afraid. One of the defects was being removed, a little.

As a symbol of what I had embarked on my sponsor brought a third chair to my 5th step. It remained empty for that time we were together, at least so I thought. It was his invitation to God to join us on the beginning of this life changing series of steps. This would be the reinforcement that there was something else working in my life and willing to help me if I would just ask. That relationship with Him was solidified then and there. I now had a power greater than myself I could rely upon as long as I was willing to count on Him and lean into in all times. I can honestly say I don't do that. I do it sometimes and am working on doing it more. The willingness to have these shortcomings removed comes, not all at once. Sometimes not one at a time, but it does arrive. Once I learned what they were and how objectionable they were not only to others but myself as well was I able to now develop and or ask for the willingness to be rid

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable."

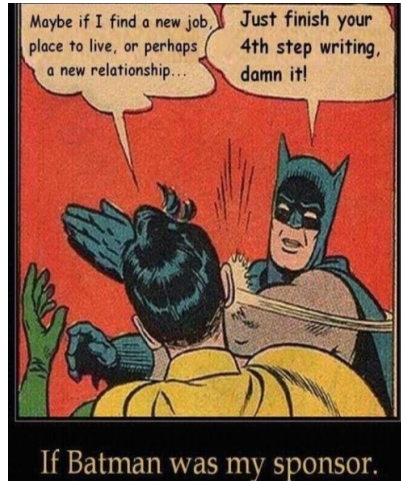
Alcoholics Anonymous, page 76

Upcoming Events

- ◇ Berger Hall Picnic Sunday August 8th, 2021. It starts at 12 Noon. 31726 N. McNally Lane, Volo, Illinois, 60073
- ◇ 2021 Northern Illinois Area 20 Big Book Conference. Via Zoom! Saturday October 30th, 2021. 8:30am-3:00pm CST Hosted by District 11. 164 and Much More. Save the date!
- ◇ 2022 State Conference August 12,13 and 14 of 2022. Sheraton Hotel, Lisle, Illinois. Co hosted with District 42 and our District 10. More will be revealed. Volunteers and Voluntolds needed!
- ◇ As calendars and events start to develop with the easing of the pandemic restrictions please make your groups aware of events you would like to announce in the Conscious Contact. You can have your GSR tell us at the district meeting.

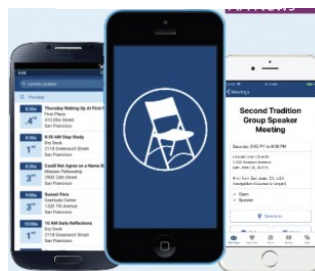
Attention GSR's and meetings without them:

Please take a few moments to go to the district website to update your meeting information. Over the last year some new groups have developed and others have changed from live meetings to hybrid meetings. This will help us to update the directory and meeting guides. Please, its important! Just click on the QR code. It will take you to the district form to update your meeting information. Thank you.

**Meeting**

A free mobile app for iOS and Android. Designed to be simple, fast, and help you find AA meetings wherever you are.

Meeting Guide 3.0 is provided by A.A.W.S. to help people find AA meetings and resources near them. It's Free!



- ◇ If it's called Alcoholics Anonymous, why do you start by telling everyone your name?
- ◇ AA romance.... the odds are good... but the goods are odd.
- ◇ I may not be much, but I'm all I think about.
- ◇ If I could drink like a normal drinker, I'd drink all the time.
- ◇ An alcoholic is someone who finds something that works and then stops doing it.
- ◇ Alcoholics burn their bridges in front of them .
- ◇ An alcoholic is someone who wants to be held while isolating.
- ◇ In AA there are no losers -- just slow winners.
- ◇ Three most dangerous words for an alcoholic:....."I've been thinking"



Submitted by Caryn J.



Answering Service Data April 17, 2021-May , 2021 Chair Janet J.			
Total Calls	40	Meeting Info	21
Spanish	0	12-Step	1
Solicitor	0	Wrong Number	0
Hang-up	3	Other Districts	1
Will call back	0	Website	0
Virtual Meetings	1	Speak to Volunteer	2
		General Info	2
		Treatment Facility Info	0
		Halfway House Info	0
		Al-Anon	1
		Miscellaneous	2

“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches... nothing matters more to AA’s future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.”

The Sixth Concept

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.



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:** Northern Illinois Area Ltd., PO Box 808, Streamwood, IL 60107**General Service Office:** PO Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163**District 10 Answering Service:** 847-362-1811**2021-2022 District 10 Officers (Confidential—this information is for A. A. use only)**

Every member of AA is welcome at District 10 meetings—

Zoom main meeting room, Meeting ID: 985 2630 5107, Password: DISTRICT10

The next District 10 meeting will be on April 25th at 6PM. For more details, go to www.district10nia.org. It will be a hybrid meeting so you may also attend at St. Gilberts Church in Grayslake 301 East Belvidere Rd. Grayslake, IL 60030 Traditions meeting starts at 5:30PM. Masks required.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM*	Michael L.			Mary R.		
Secretary*	Mary M.			Judd H.		
Treasurer*	Victoria H.			Kim K.		
Accessibilities**	Dave H.			OPEN		
Answering Service**	Janet J.			OPEN		
Archives**	Jeremy L.			Matt T.		
Bridging the Gap**	Brett C.			OPEN		
Corrections**	OPEN			OPEN		
C.P.C.**	Amy F.			Matt S.		
Directory**	Tom K.			Nathan C.		
Events**	Brandon B.			OPEN		
Grapevine**	Ted S.			Sharon T.		
GSR Contact**	Tony P.			OPEN		
Literature**	Alex E.			OPEN		
Newsletter**	Tad L.			Peter S.		
Public Info.**	Eric S.			OPEN		
Treatment**	Jeremy D.			OPEN		
Website**	Brian H.			OPEN		