

CONSCIOUS CONTACT

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

VOL 24 NO 02



Language In and Around A.A.

Did you know that some people are offended by the F-word? Some - especially older women - are also offended by other profanity. Some words we do not even consider to be profanity can be offensive to others. I quit using profanity (for the most part) at some point in my recovery. It just no longer felt right.

I sit in A.A. meetings often and hear, F-this and F-that, as well as sexual innuendos that some may also find offensive. I just fail to understand. Does it make people feel like others will listen to them better? Is it so provocative that it commands attention?

I had to take a look at my own behavior - past and present - to determine the reasons I am offended, to some degree, by other peoples' use of profanity and inappropriate talk about sex. Is there something inside me that makes me feel superior by not using poor language? Do I judge others for using profanity? The answers to those questions I will keep to myself.

What I do know, is that if you use profanity and speak inappropriately about sex in meetings, you will most likely use it in other places. In line at the grocery store, standing behind someone's grandmother and in other public places where you may offend someone. You may even slip up in the language trap at your place of worship.

The more you use profanity in places it is accepted, the greater chance you will use it in places it is not accepted.

- Bob L

IN THIS ISSUE

Willingness Over Understanding . . . 2	Spotlight. 4
2nd Step, Tradition & Concept. . . 2	The Glum Lot. 4
Events 3	Contacts & Info. 4

I AM RESPONSIBLE,

when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that:

I AM RESPONSIBLE.

Willingness Over Understanding

IN MY PROCESS OF RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOLISM, THE SECOND STEP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BECAME A PIVOTAL MOMENT OF TRANSFORMATION.

Just as the first step forced me to confront my powerlessness over alcohol, the second step required me to embrace the concept of a power greater than myself.

At the core of this step, I had to admit that I was hopeless and beyond human aid when it came to conquering my alcoholism. It was a tough realization, but I had to acknowledge that my lack of power over my alcoholism was the root of my predicament. To overcome this seemingly insurmountable challenge, I needed to turn to a force beyond my own willpower and capabilities.

The concept of spirituality and religion was something that confused and intimidated me when I first started the program of A.A. However, one of the beautiful aspects of this step is the realization that I didn't have to believe as anyone else did. A.A. provided a wide path where I could keep an open mind and stop debating religion and spirituality. It allowed me to find my unique path to recovery.

Keeping step two simple and not overcomplicating it was crucial for me. I didn't need an intricate understanding of a higher power to take this step. All it required was my willingness to believe that there was a power greater than myself. This willingness was the key that unlocked the door to my recovery.

2

The moment I became willing to believe in the existence of a power greater than myself, I started to experience positive changes in my life. It was as if a glimmer of hope began to shine through the darkness of my alcoholism. This newfound willingness became the catalyst for my transformation.

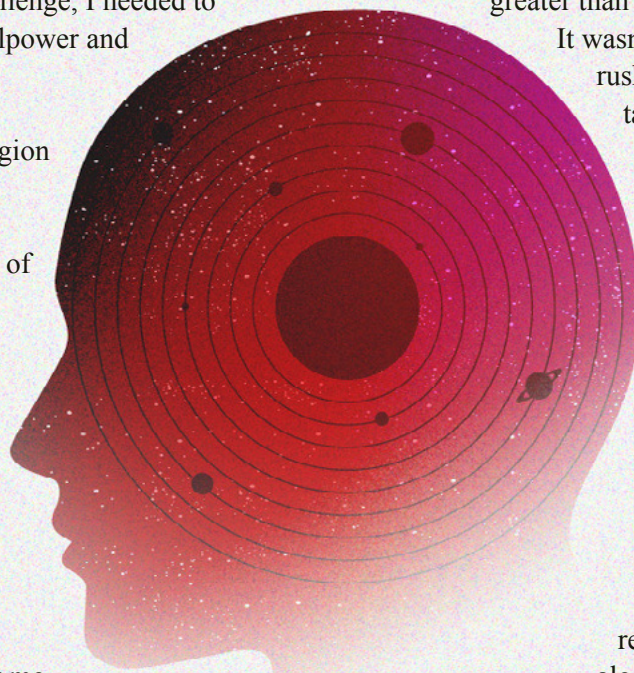
The beauty of step two lay in the promise that, as I progressed through the program, a belief in a power greater than myself would come to me naturally.

It wasn't something I needed to force or rush. Instead, it was a result of my taking the twelve steps and my growing spiritual awareness.

In essence, step two was about embracing the idea that I wasn't alone in my battle against alcoholism. It required me to surrender the notion that I could control my alcoholism through sheer willpower and accept the support of a higher power. This step was a beacon of hope for me, especially after years of struggle. It reminded me that recovery was possible, and I wasn't alone on this path.

Just as the first step marked the beginning of my path toward a spiritual awakening, the second step set the stage for a profound transformation, offering me a lifeline as I sought liberation from the clutches of my alcoholism. It served as a reminder that, with a willingness to believe in a power greater than myself, there was a way out of the darkness and into the light of freedom.

Jerry W.



Step 2

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept 2

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

27th Anniversary Pork Chop Dinner

**HINCKLEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 N. SYCAMORE STREET, HINCKLEY, IL 60520**

hosted by Hinckley Big Book Study Group

Fellowship 4:00 p.m.
Serving 4:30 p.m.
Kickoff 6:00 p.m.
A.A. Speaker Rosita R., Sycamore, IL

FREE EVENT!

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 16 - 18TH**

Women's 12 Step Recovery Retreat: Staying in the Now

VILLA DESIDERATA RETREAT CENTER

3015 NORTH BAYVIEW LANE, MCHENRY, IL 60051

Check in. 6:00 p.m. Friday
Kickoff 7:30 p.m.
Check out: 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Cost. \$180.00
Registration: ntdona@aol.com
Venmo or Zelle to Donna Carlson . . . 224-279-9029

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

GSR Workshop & "Ask It Basket" for Area Officers Districts 10, 11 & 12

THE NEW ANTIOCH RECOVERY CLUB

466 WEST ILLINOIS ROUTE 173, ANTIOCH, IL 60002

from 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Send area questions prior to event to:

chair@aa-nia.org & alt-chair@aa-nia.org

Contact any of following to reserve your space:

District 10 Karl M: gsrchair@district10nia.org
or Lorrie F: dcm@district10nia.org

District 11 djpiepl93@gmail.com

District 12 bonnieloripink@gmail.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

Open Mic Night Variety Show

SERENITY HOUSE

1103 WEST PARK AVENUE

(ROUTE 176), LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

Closed Event. 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Small treats and beverages will be served.

\$5 suggested donation

INTERESTED IN PERFORMING?

Contact Brian B. 847-370-8106



FRIDAY - SUNDAY

MARCH 1 - 3

NIA 2024 Spring Conference & Assembly HYATT REGENCY IN SCHAUMBURG

hosted by D20, D21 & D64

Flyer here: [https://](https://niaspringconference.com/flyer/)

niaspringconference.com/flyer/



Registration



Rooms



Pre-
registration
and Room
Reservations



FRIDAY - SUNDAY

MARCH 29 - 31

ISCYPAA 41 THE REGENCY CONFERENCE CENTER IN O'FALLON

hosted by

Southern Illinois Bid



SATURDAY

APRIL 6TH

40th Annual Tri-County Conference

LAKELAND CHURCH

440 N. HUNT CLUB ROAD, GURNEE, IL

hosted by Kenosha & Racine counties in WI & Lake County in IL

Speakers, banquet, chili lunch,

Alcathon, Al-Anon, panels

www.tri-countyconference.com

Online registration coming soon!



SUNDAY APRIL 7TH

Ladies Annual Sereni-Tea

ANTIOCH TOWNSHIP BUILDING

1625 DEEP LAKE ROAD, LAKE VILLA, IL

Join us for a delightful Sunday afternoon with friends sharing fun, food, and fellowship. Enjoy a variety of treats, raffle prizes, and special speaker. This is an open speaker meeting. All are welcome.

Social Hour 1:30 p.m.

Speaker / Steph M 2:30 p.m.

Tickets \$10 per person

Jean S 847-732-4574

Lori S 224-426-9447

HATS ENCOURAGED!



AAGRAPEVINE

\$2.99/mo

APP IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD!

Articles, podcast, day counter, daily checklist & more!

Spotlight

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
Corrections - meetings are
happening at Lake County Jail!
NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Documents are live & downloadable via link:
<https://district10nia.org/committees/corrections-committee/>

2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY
MONTH @ 7 P.M. VIA ZOOM
Virtual Corrections
Workshop

hosted by Area 20
 Meeting ID: 823 2846 9162
 Passcode: 061035



SATURDAY, 8:30 A.M.
Big Book Discussion (Closed)
SERENITY HOUSE, LIBERTYVILLE

Low attendance!

Contacts & Info

CONTENT DEADLINE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19. Any A.A. may contribute. **1.** Go to district10nia.org. **2.** Click "District Services and Committees", then "Newsletter". **3.** Provide name, email or phone, in case of questions. **4.** Type/Paste your content. Click "Select". That's it! **WEBSITES** www.district10nia.org www.aa-nia.org www.aa.org www.aagrapevine.org
DISTRICT 10 P.O. Box 854, Libertyville, IL 60048 **NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 20** P.O. Box 808, Streamwood, IL 60107
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE James A. Farley Station, P.O. Box 2407 New York, NY 10163 aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support

877-893-1212

DISTRICT 10 ANSWERING SERVICE
Volunteers Needed!

Next District Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 St. Gilbert Catholic Church Grayslake, IL
5:30 p.m. Traditions Meeting **6:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting**

Podcast

Alcoholics Alive!
FREEDOM, HUMOR, EXPERIENCE.

Listen on: Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio,
 TuneIn +Alexa or wherever you listen to podcasts.

www.alcoholicsalive.com

None of the participants get paid or speak for A.A.
Article by host, Jerry W., on page 2.



GSO is estimated to be
\$997,000 SHORT
 of budget in 2024.

IN AN EFFORT TO OVERCOME THIS BURDEN BY
APRIL 2024, GSO has asked that we spread the word
 to our generous groups and members. If possible,
 please consider increasing the percentage that your
 group contributes to GSO. Individual contributions are
 encouraged. If all U.S. A.A. members would donate a
 dollar that alone would cover the deficit. *Contributions*
can be made to GSO via USPS at the address listed at
the bottom of this page or via

aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support

In service, Katie D. & Paul W.