

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2020



GSR MEETING

- **DATE: DECEMBER 20TH 2020**
- **TIME: 2P**
- **PLACE: ON ZOOM**
 - **MEETING ID: 847 7367 1591**
 - **PASSCODE: 987449**

DISTRICT 18's 1ST VIRTUAL ALKATHON

- **DATE: DECEMBER 23RD-25TH, 30TH-31ST**
- **TIME: VARIES**
- **PLACE: ON ZOOM.**
- **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
 - **MEETINGS, GAMES, KARAOKE, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**
 - **SEE PG.7 FOR MORE INFO**

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT FOR NOVEMBER



John G's Top 10 List: Why Christmas may be different this year

10. I don't hate going shopping anymore.
9. I don't have to hope and pray that I don't get pulled over for drinking and driving while gift shopping.
8. Spending too much money on gifts I didn't want to buy while trying to outdo everyone else's gift.
7. Not falling into the Christmas tree.
6. Not causing a huge disruption at our family celebration.
5. Not leaving my family celebration mad.
4. Being disappointed in not getting the gift I wanted (because I wanted everyone to read my mind).
3. I'm not holding on to the idea that Christmas is all about gifts.
2. I can enjoy the eggnog without the demon consequences of rum.
1. The greatest gift I can give is my sobriety, being present.

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Faith Over Fear

When I first came around, my prayers were that of a fox hole prayer, I would say to God, "Just do this for me and I will do this for you."

My faith was based on my wants and not my needs. I seem to be bargaining with God. However, when it came to my part of the bargain, I had too much fear, lacking faith on my part to complete my task.

As a result of practicing the 12 steps of A.A., the promises began coming true. Slowly I surrender my will, allowing God to come in, as I understand him today.

I have learned to pray for other needs above my own, giving thanks on part for having acceptance of faith above fear. Faith is believing is something unseen and knowing that my prayer will materialize, if I have faith in God's will not my own. -**Ann S.**

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER AA HISTORY

DEC 1934 BILL & LOIS START ATTENDING OXFORD GROUP MEETINGS.

DEC 1934 TO MAY 1935 -BILL WORKS WITH ALCOHOLICS, BUT FAILS TO SOBER ANY OF THEM. LOIS REMINDS HIM HE IS SOBER.

DEC 1938 - TWELVE STEPS WRITTEN.

Nov/DEC 1939 - AKRON GROUP WITHDRAWS ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD GROUP.

DEC 1940- 1ST AA GROUP FORMED IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

DEC 1950 GRAPEVINE ARTICLE SIGNED BY BOTH BILL AND DR BOB RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING AA GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE.

DEC 1, 1940 -CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE BEGINS A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON AA BY NALL HAMILTON.

DEC 5, 1985 -DAVE B, FOUNDER OF MONTREAL GROUP DIES WEEKS BEFORE 50TH ANNIVERSARY. HIS STORY ADDED TO THE 4TH EDITION BIG BOOK.

DEC 7, 1949- SISTER IGNATIA RECEIVED POVERELLO MEDAL ON BEHALF OF A.A.

DEC 11, 1934- BILL ADMITTED TO TOWNS HOSP 4TH/LAST TIME (FALL '33, '34 IN SUMMER, MIDSUMMER AND FINAL ADMITTANCE).

DEC 12, 1934 -BILL HAS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AT TOWNS HOSPITAL.

DEC 12, 1937 BILL MEETS WITH ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND TRIES TO GET MONEY.

DEC 13 OR 14, 1934 -EBBY VISITED BILL AT HOSPITAL, BROUGHT WILLIAM JAMES'S BOOK, "VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE".

DEC 20, 1945 -ROWLAND H DIES (HE CARRIED THE OXFORD GROUP MESSAGE TO EBBY).

Reflections on being sober for Christmas this year

Last month, I talked about being grateful for being sober at Thanksgiving. Christmas is no different. But when I look back at past Christmas', it had become a major chore, an inconvenience to me. The pressure of trying to find the perfect gifts just made me drink more. Trying to come up gift ideas was harder because my thinking was clouded with alcohol. I knew I would be at parties where alcohol was not part of the menu. I wasted a lot of time coming up with plans on how I would survive and drink.

When I was very young, my grandmother would ask my sister and I if we wanted to go look at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve. We both got excited and said yeah. So we went with grandma looking at Christmas light decorations, just the three of us. We loved looking at those light displays, as they were both beautiful and fascinating. After a while of driving around and looking at lights, we went back home and wouldn't you know we just missed Santa Claus. There were presents under the tree and Santa had eaten our cookies and drank the milk we left out for him.

continued to the right

Throughout my life and while I was still an active drinker, I liked to drive around and look at Christmas light displays.

But this time, I was wondering what the people behind the light displays were doing. Were they having a good time? Did they have peace in their hearts? Were they enjoying each other's company?

I knew in my heart I didn't have any of these any more. It was just another holiday to get through. It was just another holiday in my drinking career.

This will be my second sober Christmas, and the warm feeling of celebration is back in my life. The pressures are not there anymore. A.A. has provided the tools to be of service, be a friend and enjoy my family. I'd rather not be expecting anything, but to give. It is important to give of my time for companionship, laughter and joy. And just maybe do something I'd hesitate to do before but do it for someone else's benefit. A.A. brought back spirituality into my life that makes Christmas all the more meaningful for me. Christmas comes around once a year, but the value of giving and service I can carry on thought the year.

This season, I will drive around and look at Christmas lights, not with my old perspective, but one where I see someone else is trying to share a little hope and a little joy. Now I better go put up my Christmas lights outside. -**John G.**

B	I	N	G	O
Christmas Tree can be seen in the background	Someone has a zoom name in Spanish (partial counts)	How it works is read	A new person comes to the meeting	More than 20 people are attending the meeting
Someone's cat interrupts them during their share	Have a first step meeting	Person joins by phone (phone # visible)	The 12 traditions are read	A lively meeting before the meeting takes place
The promises are read	Someone mentions the 3 rd step outside of how it works	FREE	Someone can be seen wearing a mask	Someone attends from out of state
Someone dresses up in a costume	Person in costume comes as Sister Roberta Stone	Someone uses a custom background	Someone is wearing a santa hat	Someone's last drunk comes up
Someone is celebrating a birthday	Someone uses a custom background that moves	The Big Book is mentioned	The 12 th step is mentioned outside of how it works	Someone has decorated their zoom area in Christmas lights

***We please ask that if you are going to play, to not disturb the meeting by shouting, "BINGO".

A very wrong and *long* Christmas story-a fill in the blank game

Can be played alone or with two or more people. The more people that play, the funnier it can get. Is a kid-friendly game, or can be very adult. It just all depends on where you want to take it. It is even educational!

Directions: Take a piece of paper and number it 1 to 44. If playing in a group, have one person in charge of calling out the items and writing the responses that fit the description of the items in the list. When done with the responses for all 44 items (yes 44! I said it was long, but trust me, it *is worth it!*), go to page 6 here of the AA newsletter to read the responses corresponding to each number to fill in the story for ***your very own*** and wrong Christmas Story!

Choose and write down items that fit the description below.

1. A verb ending in ing
2. An animal
3. A verb ending in ed
4. A place in the house
5. A verb ending in ed
6. A plural noun ending in s
7. A noun
8. A verb ending in ed
9. A clothing item
10. A clothing item
11. A part of the body

13. Piece of furniture
14. A room in the house
15. A verb ending in ed
16. Part of body
17. Adjective
18. A number
19. Adjective
20. Adjective
21. Adjective
22. Someone famous
23. An animal
24. A verb ending in ed
25. A verb ending in ed
26. A verb
27. A type of disaster
28. Plural noun
29. Verb ending in ing
30. Verb ending in ing
31. Part of body on an animal
32. Type of clothing material
33. Body part
34. Body part
35. Something that can make clothes dirty
36. Something that can make clothes dirty
37. Adjective
38. Adjective
39. Adverb
40. Body part
41. Body part
42. Plural noun
43. Body part
44. An exclamation or wish for someone

A very wrong and long “fill in the blank” Christmas story

'Twas the night before Christmas, when
all through the house, Not a creature was
1, not even a 2; The
stockings were 3 by the 4
with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon
would be there; The children were
5 all snug in their 6; While
visions of 7, 8 in their
heads; And mamma in her 9, and I
in my 10, Had just settled our
11 down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the 12 there arose
such a clatter, I sprang from my 13
to see what was the matter. Away to the
14 I flew like a flash, 15
open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen
snow, Gave a lustre of midday to objects
below, When what to my wondering
16 did appear, But a 17,
sleigh and 18 19,
reindeer, With a little old driver so
20 and 21, I knew in a
moment he must be 22, More
rapid than 23 his coursers they
came, And he 24, and 25,
and called them by name: "Now, Dasher!
now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and
Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top
of the wall! Now 26 away! 26
away! 26 away all!" As leaves that
before the wild 27 fly, When they
meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So
up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of 28, and St.
Nicholas too— And then, in a twinkling, I
heard on the roof The 29 and
30 of each little 31.

As I drew in my head, and was turning
around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas
came with a bound. He was dressed all in
32, from his 33 to his 34, and
his clothes were all tarnished with 35
and with 36; He was 37 and
38, a right 39 old elf, And I
laughed when I saw him, in spite of
myself; A wink of his 40 and a twist
of his 41 Soon gave me to know I had
nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but
went straight to his work, And filled all the
42; then turned with a jerk, And laying
his finger aside of his 43, And giving
a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang
to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a
thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he
drove out of sight—"Happy Christmas to
all, and to all 44!"

Are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any comments, suggestions, stories, or contributions to info@aa-district18.org being mindful of our steps and traditions

District 18's 1st Annual Virtual Alkathon

Meetings, games and fellowship for the holidays!

Schedule of Events

Date/time	12/23/20	12/24/20	12/25/20	12/30/20	12/31/20
5-6p	Mystery Meeting ¹	Topic meeting ³	Open discussion ⁴	Subject Discussion ⁴	Mystery Meeting
6-7p	Mystery Meeting ¹	Mystery Meeting ³	Open Discussion ⁴	Scattergories ⁴	No Meeting
7-8p	Mystery Meeting ¹	Mystery Meeting ³	Speaker meeting ⁴	Meditation Meeting ⁴	Big Book Meeting ⁴
8-9p	Mystery Meeting ¹	Mystery Meeting ³	Speaker Meeting ⁴	Topic Meeting	Game hour
9-10p	No meeting	No meeting	Speaker Meeting ⁴	No meeting	ABSI meeting
10-11p	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	No meeting	Karaoke ⁴
11-12p	Late Night Meeting ²	Late night Meeting ²	No meeting	No meeting	Topic meeting ⁴

Zoom Information

5-6p	Meeting ID: 812 4063 3043, Passcode: 138705
6-7p	Meeting ID: 828 1551 9011, Passcode: 486144
7-8p	Meeting ID: 880 4789 6198, Passcode: 601182
8-9p	Meeting ID: 897 7990 3900, Passcode: 382605
9-10p	Meeting ID: 880 4789 6198, Passcode: 601182
10-11p	Meeting ID: 886 7439 3430, Passcode: 637382
11p-12a	Meeting ID: 891 7889 0487, Passcode: 959168

A very big thank you to everyone that signed up to make this possible including the Highland Group¹, Bulldogs², Sunday Night Growth Group³ and Saturday Night Library Group⁴

