

# AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2021

## These are your District 18 officers for 2021-2023!

### District Committee Member (DCM)

- **Bob S.**

### Alternate District Committee Member

- **Gretchen H.**

### Secretary

- **Todd S.**

### Treasurer

- **Karin S.**

**Thank you to our outgoing officers: Micki G. (DCM), Bob S. (Alternate DCM), Gretchen H. (treasurer) and Rachel (secretary) for their service to our district these past two years!**

## Seven new things to try for



- 1. Is your home-group meeting still stuck on zoom? Have a meeting with a theme party!**
- 2. Attend a zoom AA meeting outside the United States.**
- 3. Attend a meeting where you're not familiar with the type of format.**
- 4. Attend a GSR meeting. See what goes on at district 18.**
- 5. Try a guided meditation.**
- 6. Find a new book with things to think about for each day of the year.**
- 7. For more excitement, trade books with someone you know in the program.**

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## Upcoming Events

### NEWSLETTER/WEB COMMITTEE MEETING

- PLEASE JOIN US IF INTERESTED
- MEET 2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
- DATE: JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2021
- TIME: 6P
- PLACE:
  - ON ZOOM
  - MEETING ID: 860 4525 2243
  - PASSCODE: 508512

### GSR MEETING

- DATE: JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2021
- TIME: 2P
- PLACE: ON ZOOM
  - MEETING ID: 847 7367 1591
  - PASSCODE: 987449

### FIVE CORNERS CONVENTION

- DATE: FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> -28<sup>TH</sup> 2021
- COST
  - FREE!
- REGISTRATION
  - STARTS AT 3P ON FRIDAY
  - FIRST SPEAKER AT 7P
- LOCATION
  - MINER CONVENTION CENTER
  - 2610 EAST MALONE
  - MINER, MISSOURI
- WEBSITE
  - [WWW.FIVECORNERSCONVENTION.COM](http://WWW.FIVECORNERSCONVENTION.COM)

**DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY? PLEASE EMAIL AND/OR SUBMIT THE INFORMATION TO [INFO@AA-DISTRICT18.ORG](mailto:INFO@AA-DISTRICT18.ORG)**

## IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY AA HISTORY

- JAN 1, 1943** COLUMBUS DISPATCH REPORTS 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO CENTRAL GROUP.
- JAN 2, 1889** SISTER IGNATIA BORN, BALLYHANE IRELAND.
- JAN 4, 1940** 1ST AA GROUP FORMED IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN.
- JAN 5, 1939** DR BOB TELLS RUTH HOCK IN A LETTER THAT AA HAS "TO GET AWAY FROM THE OXFORD GROUP ATMOSPHERE".
- JAN 8, 1938** NEW YORK AA SPLITS FROM THE OXFORD GROUP.
- JAN 10, 1940** 1ST AA MEETING NOT IN A HOME MEETS AT KING SCHOOL, AKRON, OHIO.
- JAN 15, 1945** FIRST AA MEETING HELD IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI.
- JAN 24, 1918** BILL MARRIES LOIS BURNHAM IN THE SWEDENBORGEN CHURCH IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.
- JAN 24, 1945** FIRST BLACK GROUP IN ST. LOUIS
- JAN. 24, 1971** BILL W DIES AT MIAMI BEACH, FL.
- JAN 25, 1915** DR. BOB MARRIES ANNE RIPLEY.
- JAN 26, 1971** NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES BILL'S OBITUARY ON PAGE 1.
- JAN 30, 1961** DR CARL JUNG ANSWERS BILL'S LETTER WITH "SPIRITUS CONTRA SPIRITUM".
- END OF JAN 1939** 400 COPIES OF MANUSCRIPT OF BIG BOOK CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT, EVALUATION AND SALE.



Hello and happy new year everyone! My name is Bob S and I was recently elected to be the District Committee Member (DCM) representing District 18 (D18) for 2021 and 2022. My homegroup members were kidding me and congratulated me on my “demotion”, because in the service structure triangle, the groups are on top! My job and the job of the district, are to support the groups in D18 to help them carry the message to alcoholic who still suffers. I get it! But I sure could use your prayers and support for the next two years.

We have a great District with a lot of powerful groups covering a lot of space. Our area starts north of I-70 to Gerrard and covers east west from Greenville to the Mississippi river. We have a strong website with a good committee backing it up. Working with CSO, we have an answering service, Where and When directories, and quick access to any needed AA books or literature. Our new alternate DCM, treasurer and secretary have solid sobriety and an eager attitude to serve.

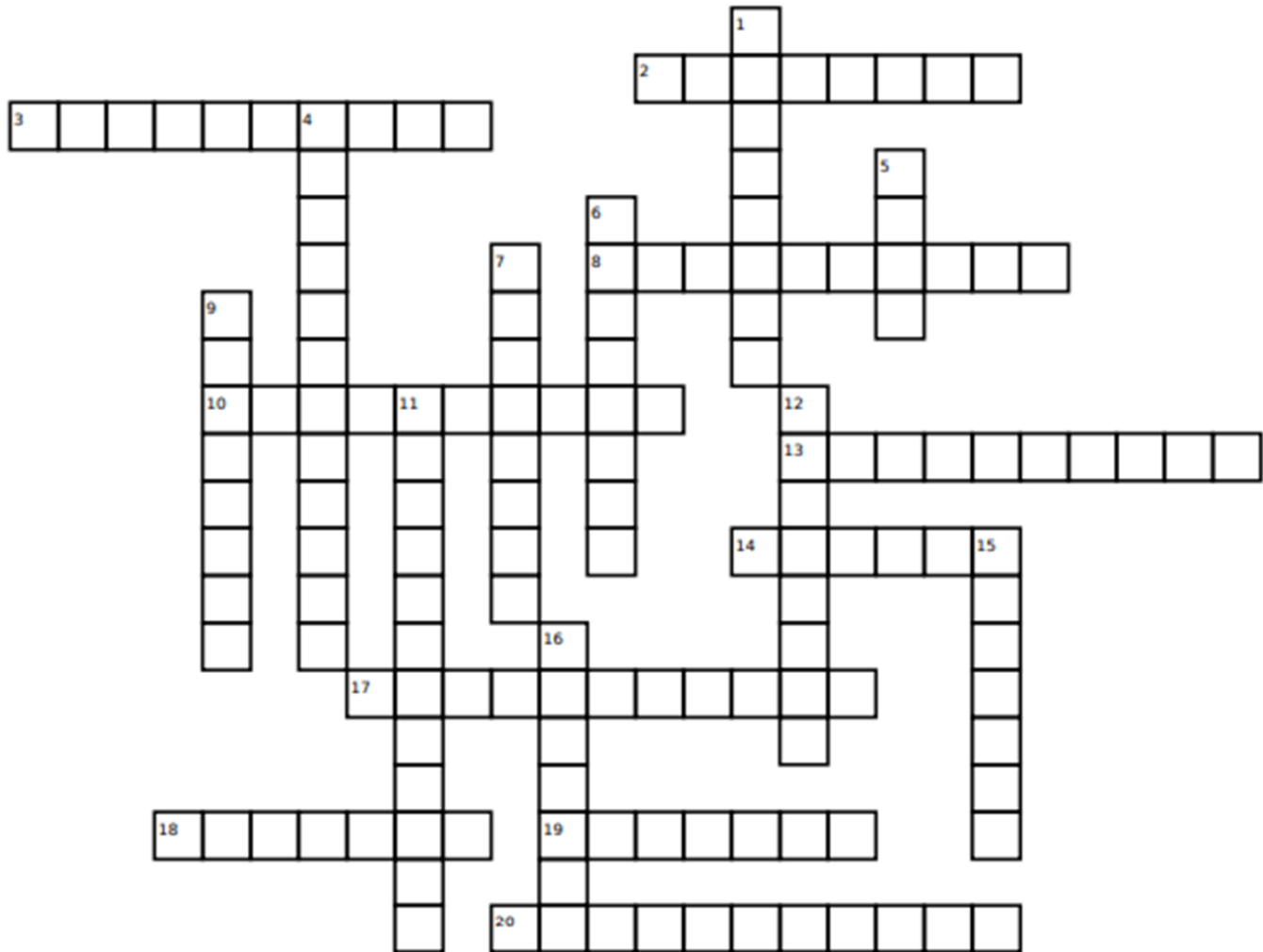
We have a lot of challenges and opportunities in front of us. The COVID pandemic has greatly reduced group participation within our district. Please ask your homegroup these questions: Do we have a General Service Representative (GSR)? Are they attending the District GSR meetings? Do we know what other groups are doing as we (hopefully) transition back to face-to-face meetings? Is our group information correct on the D18 website and in the Where and When? Are we supporting the service structure of AA, both financially, but more importantly by being represented and having our group conscience heard?

So, I ask you to support our district with your attendance at the GSR meetings. We will be meeting by Zoom at least through March 2021. The dates, time and zoom information for the District 18 GSR meetings are on the District 18 web page under the Event Calendar ([www.aa-district18.org](http://www.aa-district18.org)). We will do our best to keep the meetings to the point while still having some fun. Come join us and let's have a terrific and sober 2021!

**-Bob S.**

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## January Newsletter AA Crossword Puzzle



**Down:**

1. "be \_\_\_\_\_ and thorough from the very start"
4. waving the white flag
5. something you need to do every morning and evening
6. greatly revered and honored.
7. the number of the rule that says not to take yourself too seriously
9. The basic ingredient of this is a desire to seek and do God's will
11. includes, "personal recovery depends upon AA unity(two words with no spaces)"
12. found starting on page 83
15. one of the three things found around the AA triangle on a coin
16. a highly improbable or extraordinary event

**Across:**

2. honesty, \_\_\_\_\_, and willingness
3. a friendly association with people who share one's interests
8. associated with page 417
10. sought through prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ to improve our conscious contact with God
13. one of the luxuries alcoholics cannot afford
14. what you "make" if you "injure" another person
17. what our efforts help find in step four
18. a trusted person you work the steps with
19. \_\_\_\_\_ to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference
20. what we MUST be rid of



In December, the topic of 'Acceptance is the Answer' came up in a few meetings. On page 417 is the following, "And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation—some fact of life—unacceptable to me....." I began to analyze my current and especially past experiences where I ran into this problem. Why, I asked myself, was I having problems accepting these types of things, whatever they may be. And why was I able to accept other problems or situations with no effort. Was it because I had to always be right or that I knew better than another? Was something always interfering with what I wanted? Did I have something to prove? Did I just have to have my way? Did I have to feel like I was in control when everything about me was out of control?

While thinking about this, resentments came into mind for some reason and page 552. "If you have a resentment you want to be free of, if you will pray for the person or thing that you resent, you will be free...." This advice was suggested to me by a long-time member who heard me talking about a resentment I had with my former CEO. I was never going to see this CEO again, but

*continued to the right*

*Acceptance-continued*

couldn't let go of the resentment. In his kind voice he asked, "John, have you ever thought about praying for that person?" Per his suggestion, I read page 552 and prayed for that person, and I didn't even realize when the resentment had left. How did that work? I was relieved it worked.

When I thought about this, two things jumped out to me from each of those pages, "unacceptable to me" and resentment. Both of these are generated in my head by me. When I did my fourth step inventory, it became apparent that my number one and number two character defects were selfishness and self-centeredness. So these two character defects still are present, though not as much as they used to be.

A couple of paragraphs from page 62 are read after 'How It Works' at one particular meeting I go to really made sense when I tied the above two actions with my defects. "Selfishness---self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self pity....So our troubles, we think are basically of our own making...." These two are fuel for my ego and I really cannot afford to have an ego. My ego was self driven, and one way for me to keep it at bay is to pray the Third Step Prayer every morning, where I ask my Higher Power "relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will...." When I ask for the bondage of self to be relieved in me, it is hard for fear, self-delusion, self-seeking and self-pity to enter and take over. When I am not thinking of myself, I am able to better serve others and to accept things as they are, not as I would have them. **-John G.**

# RENT-A-SPONSOR<sup>1</sup>

Are you tired of being told like it is?

Still looking for that easier, softer way?

Had enough of that same old time-tested direction?

No Reading! No Writing! No Deadlines!

## STANDARD FEATURES *INCLUDE:*

- No daily calling required, call when you want to!
- Listens to your sniveling without constant reference to the Basic Text or the Steps!
  - Co-signing your excuses and rationalizations!
  - Work only the Steps you want, in the order you choose!
  - Learn the secret of giving it away before you even have it!
- Teaches you how to “talk the talk” rather than show you how to “walk the walk.”
  - Teaches you it is better to look good rather than to feel good!
    - Why save your ass at the cost of losing your face?
      - Will do your service work for you!

## **FOURTH STEP WRITING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE!**

**YES, WE WILL WRITE YOUR INVENTORY FOR YOU!!**

Yes, at Rent-A-Sponsor we know that you are unique and we do understand!

## **HALF MEASURES ARE OUR SPECIALITY!**

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Call now and receive a free copy of

“Staying Clean on War Stories Alone!”

<sup>1</sup>Credit to Nashville AA’s newsletter, modified by John G.



# January AA crossword puzzle

