

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

May 2021

District 18 news

- The Granite City Breakfast Group, which meets at 10a on Saturdays is now meeting live! Please note that the location has moved to 301 Meredocia St in Madison, IL.
- The Sunday Night Gaunt Prospectors Step meeting at 7p is now face to face at the Central Service Office.
- The Tuesday Night Women's Group in Granite City at 7p is now meeting face to face. Masks are required.
- The Let it Go meeting in Elsah at 7:30 on Thursday is now back to meeting in person.
- The North Alton Group that meets on Monday at 7:30p is back to meeting live. Please note the location has changed to The Bridge Church, 504 E 12th St, Alton, IL.



Do you remember those round Fischer Price toys that were all plastic where you had to fit blocks of different shapes into different holes? I can and I played with it for hours. The one thing it taught me, is that if you want to get the blocks through, they have to fit.

As a youngish kid, I thought I knew what I wanted to do with my life and had all these ideas as to how my life would play out. When I was really early in my career, something didn't feel right about the direction I was going. I can remember ignoring that nagging feeling that something wasn't right. Part of the reason I ignored it, was I wasn't sure what else to do with my life. I thought that perhaps once I got past one stage, that things would get better. I was also told by a number of people that by giving up, it would give any kind of reputation a black eye, so I

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Upcoming Events

NEWSLETTER/WEB COMMITTEE MEETING

- PLEASE JOIN US IF INTERESTED
- DATE: THURSDAY MAY 13TH 2021
- TIME: 6P
- PLACE:
 - ON ZOOM
 - MEETING ID: 860 4525 2243
 - PASSCODE: 508512

GSR MEETING

- DATE: SATURDAY MAY 16TH 2021
- TIME: 2P
- PLACE: ON ZOOM
 - MEETING ID: 847 7367 1591
 - PASSCODE: 987449

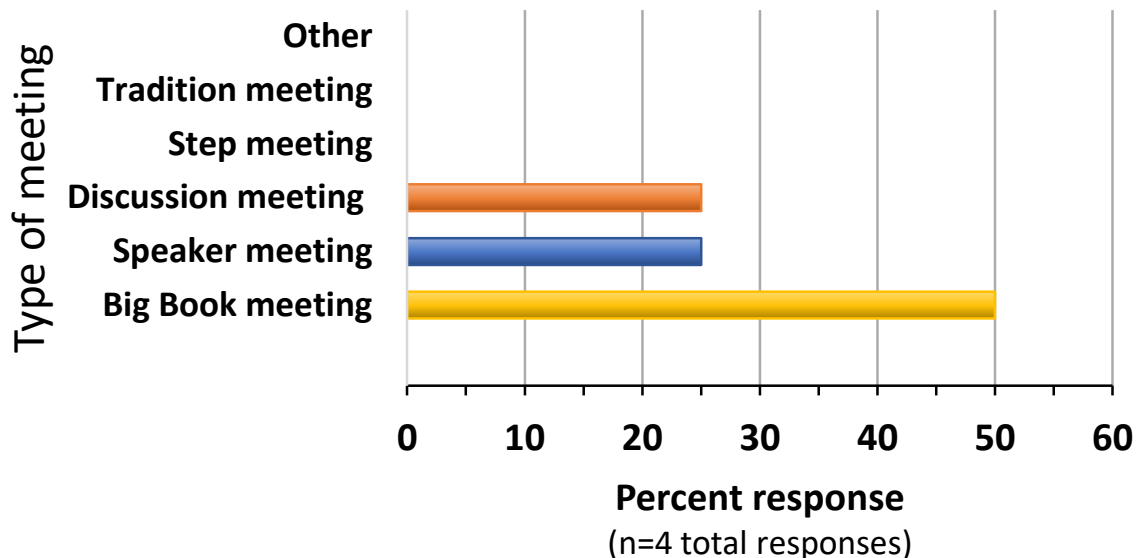
Remembering those we lose along the way



District 18 has lost three important members with many years of sobriety in 2021; Keith R., Patty W., and Nancy J. They will be dearly missed within our district and fellowship!

Results of District 18 Website poll

What is your favorite kind of meeting?



Thank you to all of our participants in our website poll! Note that this poll only reflects participants that went to the District 18 website the last two weeks of April and participated in the poll. The website will be having another poll in May, so stayed tuned!

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY AA HISTORY

MAY 1919 - BILL RETURNS HOME FROM SERVICE.

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

MARCH-MAY 1938 - BILL BEGINS WRITING THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

MAY 1951 - AL-ANON IS FOUNDED BY LOIS W. AND ANNE B.

MAY 1, 1939 - BANK FORECLOSES ON 182 CLINTON STREET. (SOMETIMES REPORTED AS APRIL 26, 1939)

MAY 3, 1941 - DEMOCRAT CHRONICLE IN ROCHESTER, NY, REPORTED FIRST ANNUAL AA DINNER AT SENECA HOTEL WITH 60 ATTENDING.

MAY 6, 1946 - THE LONG FORM OF THE "TWELVE TRADITIONS" WAS PUBLISHED IN THE AA GRAPEVINE.

MAY 8, 1971 - BILL W BURIED IN PRIVATE CEREMONY, EAST DORSET, VERMONT.

MAY 11, 1935 - BILL W MADE CALLS FROM THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL AND WAS REFERRED TO DR. BOB.

MAY 11, 1939 - FIRST GROUP TO OFFICIALLY CALL ITSELF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MET AT ABBY G'S HOUSE IN CLEVELAND. (SOME SOURCES SAY THE 18TH)

MAY 12, 1935 @ 5 PM - BILL W MET DOCTOR BOB AT THE HOME OF HENRIETTA SEIBERLING.

MAY 17, 1942 - THE DAYTON JOURNAL HERALD PUBLISHED PICTURES OF AA MEMBERS WEARING MASKS TO PROTECT THEIR ANONYMITY.

MAY 18, 1950 - DR. BOB TELLS BILL "I RECKON WE OUGHT TO BE BURIED LIKE OTHER FOLKS" AFTER HEARING THAT LOCAL AA'S WANT A HUGE MEMORIAL.

(RENAMED "ACCEPTANCE WAS THE ANSWER" IN THE 4TH EDITION) DIED AT THE AGE OF 83.

MAY 29, 1980 - "DR. BOB AND THE GOOD OLDTIMERS" WAS PUBLISHED.



kept going.

Nothing got better. Not too much later, I found that drinking was a great way to turn off that nagging feeling, to turn off my mind, and to make disappointments, frustrations and seething anger more tolerable. I felt lost, but was convinced I could make things work. I even thought that once I was sober, everything would go great and that all the time, effort and energy would finally amount to something amazing. It hasn't quite worked out that way and that's okay.

The other day I was listening to a meditation on giving up. The person leading the meditation was saying that sometimes we have to be willing to let certain ideas, like dreams go, especially when they no longer serve us. It allows for new opportunities to come along that may be way better than anything what was anticipated. They stated that it can feel like you're stepping off a cliff into the unknown. In many ways, it feels like a death.

I started thinking about this, and it's very similar to getting sober. I remember being completely scared of the idea of not drinking anymore. Drinking for me was sort of like duct tape. It solved all problems and even those it wasn't meant to solve! When I wasn't drinking, I couldn't feel like I could enjoy myself, relax, and that things were boring. Before I got sober, I was convinced that I would find everything non-enjoyable and boring FOREVER.

For the first months sober, I didn't find

a lot of things enjoyable or terribly exciting, but I kept on being told to hang on, that it gets better the longer you're sober. After 4-6 months, experiencing joy came back. I had forgotten what it was to experience pure joy as I had been emotionally numb for so long. Enjoying things came back and I found new ways to occupy my time that enjoyed.

The point of this is, that by letting go, it allowed me to start building a new, sober life. So much about this program is about letting go and letting God accomplish things. This is the entire essence of step 3 in turning our will and our lives to the care of God as we understand him.

We learn we can no longer arrange the pieces the way we want. So much of my sobriety has been realizing that I never allowed for God's will in my life. I was convinced that if I banged long enough and hard enough, I would get that darn square peg through that round hole. However, this program has allowed me to see that I need to stop playing God and to let God take control.

The 12 and 12 on page 125 even has a section on this, "the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God's scheme of things—these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes".

Do I still struggle with this? Of course! However, the program has shown me that God will find a place for me, even if it wasn't the round hole this square peg planned for. -KS

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN JUNE? PLEASE EMAIL AND/OR SUBMIT INFORMATION TO [INFO@AA-DISTRICT18.ORG](mailto:info@aa-district18.org)

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