

# AA District 18 Newsletter

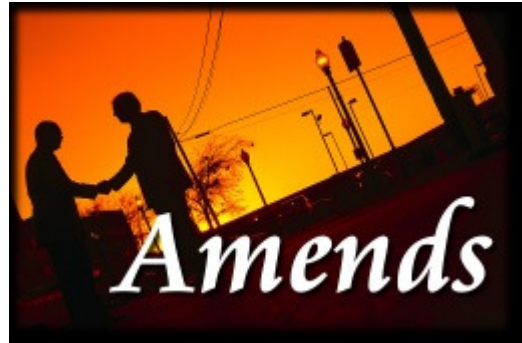
Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2023



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- The **Grateful and Sober Group** now has two meetings on zoom, Thursday 5:30pm to 7:00pm and Saturday 12:30pm to 2:00pm. Both meetings are closed.



## AA Grapevine Discussion: Making Amends

This month, we continue with AA Grapevine discussion questions. We highly encourage our readers to read the AA grapevine article relevant to the discussion, but it is not necessary to have read it or to be familiar with it. We are answering the questions based on our own experience with the hope that our answers will be helpful to our readers.

This month's discussion questions are from February's AA Grapevine issue, and are related to Making Amends.

"How did your drinking affect the people in your life? What are some tough amends you've had to make? How did they go? Did any surprise you? Was your sponsor helpful? The literature? Any tips on making amends? What are some amends you still need to make?"

### Making Amends

After I had my Step 8 list as complete as I could make it, I started making amends, beginning with my wife. Family followed and then friends. At the time, there was one amends to a family member that I wasn't sure I could make. My sponsor and I talked about it and agreed that under the current circumstances, it might actually cause more harm than good to our overall family dynamics. So that amends was put on the back burner and I let it go. That was around 3 years ago.

*continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | D18 News, Making Amends                   |
| <b>2</b>  | Making Amends (cont'd) / A.A. History     |
| <b>3</b>  | A.A. History (cont'd) / Interesting Dates |
| <b>4</b>  | Hope / Upcoming Events                    |
| <b>5</b>  | Hope (cont'd) / Some Humor / Birthdays!!  |
| <b>6+</b> | Fliers and such                           |

*Making Amends (cont'd from pg. 1)*

Twenty five plus years ago, I participated with other family members trying to stop my youngest brothers upcoming marriage. We took them to the priest who was to marry them, to tell him why they shouldn't get married. Our efforts to keep them from getting married were unsuccessful, and the marriage proceeded. My brother was in the Army at the time, and after the marriage, they were transferred to a base in Germany for a number of years. Upper New York was their next destination. Once he was out of the Army, they located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. While in the states, they usually made one visit a year to visit us and mom for a few days. During those visits over the years, everything seemed fine and everyone was getting along.

August 2021, my brother and family came to visit as they do each year. My wife and sister-in-law would often go off on their own to talk. On this last visit, I asked my wife what they had talked about, and somehow she mentioned that my sister-in-law and her had talked about what had been done to them before their marriage all those years ago. I was taken aback. It had suddenly occurred to me that they were carrying that incident with them this whole time. I never apologized for what I had done and no one else did either. It was then I realized that I had been looking at this all wrong. I thought that if I made this amends, it would stir up emotions in them of that incident and wreck havoc on our peaceful family dynamics, especially with my mom and sister. What I discovered was this burden had never left them. I had to make this amends.

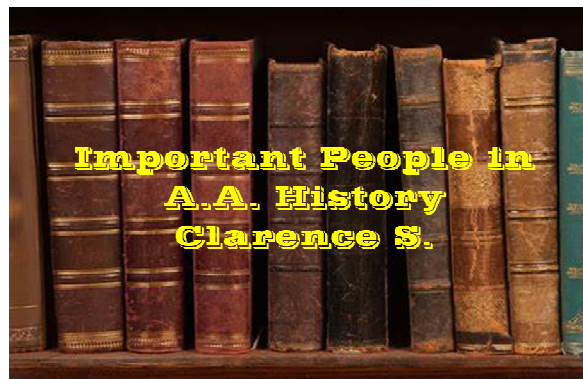
Even though my brother and his family were up for a visit in August last year, I decided I would go visit him in Texas later in the fall. All the years he lived in Texas, I never once went to visit. I would now go visit them in their home and let them and God decide what to do with my amends. The amends went well and we had a nice weekend visit. And I just found out they plan on visiting over Easter this year.

Initially, I thought family dynamics was a valid reason for postponement, where the result might injure them or others. I was trying to protect everyone from the painful past. I always wanted to do the amends with them, just never knew when and how. By keeping an open mind and listening, I was able to gather information I hadn't considered. This information allowed me to see this situation from a new perspective. I have to

always keep an open mind concerning amends. Sometime in the future, I may cross the path of someone from the past that I had harmed, and be willing to make an amends.

BTW, my brother and his wife just celebrated their 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

John G



On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1938, Clarence S. had his last drink<sup>1</sup>. While Clarence may be familiar to some people in the fellowship, anyone using the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book are likely to be unfamiliar with who he is as his story is not in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book.

So, who is Clarence S? He is best known for sharing his experience, strength and hope in the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> editions of the Big Book under the title, "Home Brewmeister"<sup>2</sup>. He recalls his descent into alcoholism, which began after brewing porter ales for his pregnant wife at the recommendation of their doctor<sup>2</sup>. After a number of hellish years suffering the insanity and consequences of alcoholism, his wife heard of a doctor that was very successful at treating drunks and took Clarence to him. This doctor happened to be Dr. Bob, who eventually became Clarence's sponsor, taking him through the steps.

After being sober for 15 months, Clarence began the first A.A. group in Cleveland in 1939. His group was the first group to use the name Alcoholics Anonymous<sup>1</sup>. After the Big Book had been published in 1939, he started a third fellowship in Cleveland in 1940. A sponsor and newcomer would meet and work their way through the Big Book together, page by page. Additionally, the four absolutes of the Oxford group (Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness, Love) and the importance of working with other alcoholics were also

*continued on page 3*

emphasized<sup>3</sup>. The A.A. program took off in Cleveland and was highly successful. Even Bill W. took note of how successful it was in sobering up alcoholics. Clarence's method of sponsorship quickly became the most common sponsorship style in A.A., so Clarence is a key figure in the history of A.A.

While he's considered to be a key pioneer of A.A., especially in Ohio, he might have been considered a co-founder of A.A. if he had not had such an abrasive personality according to one individual<sup>1</sup>. People either liked or hated him. While the relationship that Clarence had with Bill W. was initially positive, the relationship went south as Clarence did not like what Bill was doing with the fellowship. Clarence opposed the traditions, the General Service Office, and the A.A. conference. Clarence also used his full name.

While there was very little about whether Clarence and Bill W's relationship was ever restored, Clarence wrote a story about being 30 years sober in the November 1968 issue of the A.A. Grapevine<sup>4</sup>. In it, he states, "I learned long ago that this is a life-changing program, but that, after the change occurs, it is necessary for me to go on making the effort to improve myself mentally, morally, and spiritually". Clarence passed away on March 22, 1984<sup>1</sup> at the age of 81<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/biography-home-brewmeister/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/10-home-brewmeister/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bigbooksponsorship.org/articles-alcoholism-addiction-12-step-program-recovery/aa-history/aa-pioneer-clarence-snyder-initiate-big-book-sponsorship/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/1968/nov/ive-never-quit-being-active>

KS

## INTERESTING DATES IN FEBRUARY AA HISTORY

**FEB 1936:** First AA group in Akron OH is set upon a firm footing.

**FEB 1939:** Dr. Harry Tiebout, chief psychiatrist Blythewood Sanitarium, Connecticut, became first psychiatrist to endorse AA & use AA principles in his practice.

**FEB 1939:** 400 copies of the Big Book's "Original Manuscript" are sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists & others for comment.

**FEB 1939:** A Montclair NJ psychiatrist (Dr. Howard) suggests swapping the "you musts" in the Big Book for "we ought."

**FEB 1940:** Jim B. moves to Philadelphia PA and starts first Philly AA group (which first met on 2/28/40 chaired by Jim B. & held in George S.'s home). His story "The Vicious Cycle" is in the Big Book.

**FEB 1942:** Bill W. pays tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's 1<sup>st</sup> paid secretary who had resigned to get married. Ruth signed 15,000 letters to alcoholics who wrote the NY AA office asking for help.

**FEB 1943:** During World War II gasoline rationing, the U.S. Gov't. recognizes the "importance of AA work" & grants AA the right to use cars for 12<sup>th</sup> Step work in emergency cases.

**FEB 5 1945:** Time Magazine reported Detroit's WWJ radio station's pioneer broadcasts by AA'ers, 1<sup>st</sup> such radio program in U.S.

**FEB 1959:** AA granted permission to "Recording For The Blind" to tape the Big Book.

**FEB 1967:** Father John Doe (a.k.a. Fr. Ralph Pfau), the 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic priest to join AA, dies.



## Step 2 Vital Principle - Hope

"Hope is gained through open-mindedness. The bitter enemies of hope are prejudice and contempt prior to investigation."

A definition of hope is "the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best." Having run out of options and nowhere else to turn, I came into my first A.A. meeting outside of rehab. In that meeting I saw the same environment I saw at the A.A. meetings I attended in rehab, where the difference at this first A.A. meeting was I didn't have the protection of rehab facility walls. In rehab I just didn't get it, where everyone was happy, laughing, giving hugs to fellow members, and then sharing their stories and experiences during the meeting. Now I was on the outside, and the thought of being left to my own devices was scary. I learned a lot in rehab, but what one of the things I learned was how my mind worked now. So at that first meeting, I saw the same interactions, and during the meeting I heard new stories and experiences. I was slow to learn that this is not an 'I' program, but a 'we' program. All my life I had been trying to make the 'I' program work, and it did not have much success, very little success.

The hope I experienced during those early meetings was from the other members sharing where they had come from, and how their lives are now. To a newcomer, this seemed impossible, yet here they were telling me it was. They were living proof. If I wanted what they had, I needed to keep coming back. They were showing me something that I had not experienced or lived in a really long time, so long that I couldn't remember. Early on I didn't always agree with what I heard, but I kept coming back. I soon began working on being open-minded, because in the past my reactions to things I didn't agree with were based on my self-centeredness and often boosted my ego.

Another thing that brought me hope was the honesty the members shared at the meetings and

*Continued on page 5*

## Upcoming Events for February

### 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FIVE CORNERS CONVENTION

- DATE: FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2023
- TIMES: SEE ATTACHED FLIER
- LOCATION: MINER CONVENTION CENTER  
2610 EAST MALONE, MINER, MO

### SPEAKER JAM, DESSERT POTLUCK AND TRIVIA NIGHT

- DATE: FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2023
- TIME: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- LOCATION: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
409 BROADWAY, UNIT C-1, SOUTH ROXANA, IL

### GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2023
- TIME: 2:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107  
PASSCODE: 093088

### ALTON FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

- DATE: FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023
- TIME: 6:00 PM
- SPEAKER: WILL W.
- LOCATION: UPPER ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH, PECK BLDG  
2726 COLLEGE AVE., ALTON, IL

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP

- DATE: MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023
- TIMES: SEE ATTACHED FLIER
- LOCATION: PERE MARQUETTE LODGE  
ROUTE 100, GRAFTON, IL



Hope (cont'd from pg. 4)

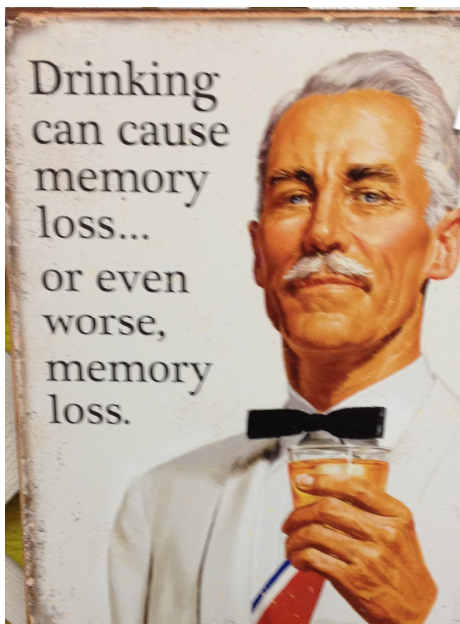
just talking in general. My version of the truth had become so distorted by my own thinking and those I associated with, I lived in a perpetual lie. To have someone be honest with me was a wow moment. Because they weren't lying to me, maybe I could trust them.

I will continue to go to meetings and maybe what I share will give a newcomer hope. For with hope, maybe the newcomer can see a way out.

JG

### Some Humor

- A skeleton walks into a bar and says, "I'd like a beer and a mop."
- A grasshopper walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Hey, we have a drink named after you!" The grasshopper says, "You have a drink named 'Kevin'?"
- A minister, a priest and a rabbi walk into a bar. "What is this," asks the bartender, "some kind of joke?"
- Guy in bar: "Have you got anything to drink?"  
Bartender: "Water."  
Guy in bar: "I meant something harder?"  
Bartender: "Ice."



**GRAPEVINE  
LA VIÑA**

To sign up for our  
Daily Quote and  
monthly newsletter visit -  
[aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)  
[aalavina.org](http://aalavina.org)

Follow us on Instagram  
[@alcoholicsanonymous\\_gv](https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicsanonymous_gv)  
[@alcoholicosanonimos\\_lv](https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicosanonimos_lv)

Find us on YouTube at  
**The AA Grapevine Channel**

Listen to our Podcast  
[aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast)

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN MARCH, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to [info@aa.district18.org](mailto:info@aa.district18.org) by 03/01/23, being mindful of our steps and traditions. Any suggestions or comments are always appreciated and can be sent to [info@aa-district18.org](mailto:info@aa-district18.org).

THANK YOU for subscribing to our newsletter!

# Your 41st Annual Five Corners Convention

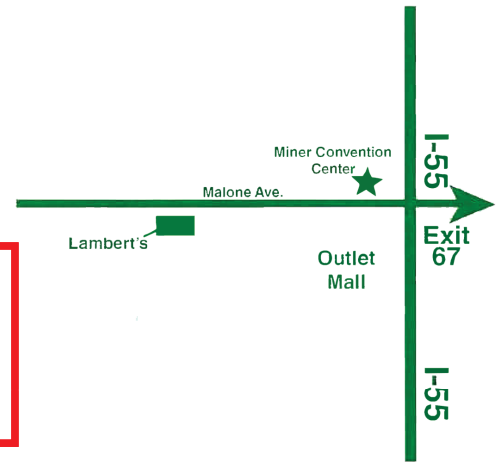


**HOST STATE - ILLINOIS**

**February 17th & 18th, 2023**

**LOCATION**

**Miner Convention Center  
2610 East Malone  
Miner, Missouri**



**special** **Special Lodging Rates**  
(5 Corners Convention #330551)

**Drury Inn \$119 (573) 472-2299**

**Pear Tree Inn \$99 (573) 471-4100**

**Free Registration**

**Free Bingo**

**Entire Convention Non-Smoking**

**Registration Begins 3:00 p.m. - Friday**

**First Speaker 7:00 p.m. - Friday**

**Contact: Chairman - 870-740-8113 – Email: [hartsfieldlc@gmail.com](mailto:hartsfieldlc@gmail.com)  
[www.fivecornersconvention.com](http://www.fivecornersconvention.com)**



District 18 AA Activity Committee Presents

# February Speaker Jam

Dessert Pot-luck  
Trivia Following Speaker

Central Service Office (CSO)

409 Broadway Unit C-1, South Roxana, IL 62084

Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00~9:00pm

Speaker starts @ 6:30:  
Scott H. from the Tue. Night Group

- Open Meeting. Bring your favorite dessert to share!
- Trivia subjects will vary, with a special – “Resentment Bonus Round”, we’re sure you’ll identify with!





# GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP

[www.GreatRiverRoundup.com](http://www.GreatRiverRoundup.com)

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE  
MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

10<sup>TH</sup>

- 1:00PM Roundup Check-In
- 3:00PM AA Stick Meeting
- 8PM **AA SPEAKER**  
**DEYA D.**  
**MIAMA, FL**
- 10:00PM Red Ball Meeting

**“We Will Know Peace”**

Lodge reservations are separate from the **Great River Roundup**. Hotel room and cabin reservations may be made by contacting:  
**Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center**  
Route 100, Grafton, IL 62037  
618.786.2331

SATURDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

11<sup>TH</sup>

- 10AM **AA SPEAKER**  
**BILL H.**  
ST. LOUIS, MO
- 1:30PM **AL-ANON SPEAKER**  
**MARY W.**  
EDWARDSVILLE, IL
- 3:30PM Discussion Meeting
- 6:30PM Banquet
- 8PM **AA SPEAKER**  
**THIERRY F.**  
YONKERS, NY



When inquiring about rooms be sure to tell the lodge that you are with the **Great River Roundup**

**Other Lodging in Area:**  
Ruebel Hotel: 618.786.2315  
Tara Point Inn & Cottages: 618.786.3555

All banquet registrations **MUST BE** received by **Friday, March 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023**. Banquet seating is on a first come first serve basis and seating is limited to 192.

**For more information call:**  
**Amber @ 618.806.6443 or**  
**Nina @ 618.514.3953**

Sign language interpreter available if requested by 02/01/23.

## 2023 Great River Roundup - Registration Form

Please fill out (1) registration form **PER** person and list your **FULL NAME** to better streamline the registration process. Banquet seating is assigned so if you want to sit together **YOU MUST** register together. Please list the **FULL NAMES** of the people you would like to sit with on the back of this form. Register online at [www.GreatRiverRoundup.com](http://www.GreatRiverRoundup.com) or send registration and payment to: **Great River Roundup - P.O. Box 522, Wood River, IL 62095.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ VOLUNTEER AT EVENT? \_\_\_\_\_ IF YES, PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PURCHASE A REGISTRATION \$20.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ PURCHASE A BANQUET \$20.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATE A REGISTRATION \$20.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ DONATE A BANQUET \$20.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_