

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2023



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- The **Saturday Morning Breakfast Club** has a new address due to the street being renamed (301 Gardner in Madison, IL).
- **District 18 Website** has a new tab, Volunteer. This tab opens the D18 Volunteer Form.
- The **Activities Committee** is need of volunteers. Sign up using the new Volunteer Form on the District 18 Website.
- **The Troy Welcome Home Group** has open meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

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SERVING OTHERS



AA Grapevine Discussion: Getting Into Service!

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 March's AA Grapevine issue, and are related to Getting Into Service.

"What was your first service position in AA? What has been your favorite one so far? What are some things you have learned through doing service? How has it helped you in your home or work life? Have you done any service outside your home group, for the district or area? Share what you've learned."

Getting into Service

I was a Boy Scout all my teen years. Every meeting I attended started with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. *The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout. A Scout tries to live up to the Law every day. It is not always easy to do, but a Scout always tries¹.* The Scout Law reads: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. When I arrived in AA, I possessed none of these characteristics I should have been living by. I now needed AA to help me learn these characteristics in a new way if I am to remain sober. The third law

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Getting into Service (cont'd from pg. 1)

is 'Helpful', which in AA is Service.

I didn't have much planned in the way of service when I came into AA. I just wanted to stay sober. But little did I realize I had actually begun service work the first meeting I attended. Just being present in a meeting is service to the others that attend that meeting. Being present is providing support for all members, those with many years of sobriety and new comers. Speaking at a meeting was providing service, no matter how incoherent my speaking may have been in the beginning. I joined a home group almost as soon as I came into AA, but didn't know what to do or what that meant. But I learned and began arriving early to help set up for our meeting and participate in the pre-meeting conversations.

After a while in AA, and with no prospects for sponsees, a service opportunity appeared when I attended a GSR meeting. The District 18 Newsletter team was looking for members to join their team. I always liked writing, but hadn't done any in a very long time. In my first newsletter meeting, and not really knowing what I could contribute, I had come up with the idea for a Top 10 List, similar to David Letterman's top 10 lists he used to do on his late night TV show. The article was called "Reasons I'm thankful I'm sober this Thanksgiving" and was included in the Nov. 2020 issue. I had a lot of fun coming up with that contribution. So for the Dec. issue, I did another top 10 list, "Why Christmas may be different this year" and I wrote my first article "Christmas This Year." I've kept myself active by contributing articles each month thereafter.

I was attending the Newsletter team meetings, which were on Zoom due to the lockdowns, and we discussed topics for the upcoming newsletter. Active participation in committees, like the newsletter committee, that had actual discussions outlining directions was different to me. And it felt good to participate.

Today, I have the privilege of putting the newsletter together which includes contributions from myself and others. But it would be hard to accomplish without the help of others. I can do service work in a team environment, such as the newsletter, and I can do service on an individual basis. The third word in the Scout Law, Helpful, and AA's commitment to service, really holds a lot of weight now that I am working on maintaining my sobriety. When I'm serving someone or something, I am not really thinking about myself any more. The feeling I get from doing service

work and experiencing the gratitude received from those I've helped makes it all worthwhile. Unlike my past, where anything I did for someone else had the expectation of what am I going to get out of it.

If you've been thinking about service work but were fearful of the commitment, talk to God or your Higher Power and your sponsor about it. As they did with me, they won't lead you wrong.

¹<https://www.scouting.org/about/faq/question10/>

John G



The vital principles of the 3rd Step is "Willingness" to believe and practice the proven steps of recovery, and "Faith" will follow.

When I reflect on all my attempts to quit drinking over the years prior to AA, I was willing to stop, or at least I thought I was. Many of those times I stopped were the result of some type of trouble I got myself into. In each of those times I had stopped drinking, I never thought of quitting forever. When I came into AA, I wanted to stay sober. I was tired of getting into trouble because of my drinking and I was tired of all the hospital stays. So now in AA, what I thought was willingness to quit in the past, was nothing more than willpower. Willpower can be overcome by insane thoughts. Insane thoughts driven by a foe that was cunning, baffling and powerful. I needed more help than just my own willpower if I was ever to achieve sobriety. I didn't know that until I came to Step 3.

Step 3 is about the willingness to turn over my problems and life to a higher power. Willingness to receive help and guidance from someone other than myself. I had a hard time with being willing to turn everything over to or rely on a higher power, one that I thought had left me and

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Willingness (cont'd from pg. 2)

left desperate prayers go unanswered. And I had a hard time asking for help, for not only my drinking problem, but for anything. But if I wanted to remain sober, I needed to let go of the steering wheel and let someone else do the driving. I needed a navigator. I needed to become willing to embrace a new way of thinking.

What I didn't realize, is when I became willing to change, faith followed. Slowly at first and not very apparent, but the seed of faith had been planted. By continuing to take these steps into willingness, my faith in a higher power started growing stronger. It is a faith that continues to grow each day, little by little. I began having faith in a higher power. A higher power that had not left me, but was here help me, and I came to understand that higher power had always been with me.

Every day I have to be willing to do something to maintain my sobriety. Am I willing to not have that first drink? Am I willing to start my day off communicating to my higher power? Am I willing to do my daily prayers? Am I willing to say a prayer for someone other than myself? Am I willing to do the next right thing? Am I willing to be of service to someone or something? Am I willing to talk to another person about my problems? Am I willing to listen to another person's problems? Am I willing to review my day? Am I willing to close my day with prayer to my higher power? I answer yes to all these questions, because my sobriety is that important to me. Before AA, I was not willing. Today, I feel grateful because I am willing.

JJG

Some Humor

Math Teacher: "If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"

Student: "A drinking problem."

A ghost walks into a bar and asks for a whiskey. The bartender said "Sorry sir, we don't serve spirits here!"

A guy walks into a bar, sits down and hears a small voice say, "You look nice today." A few minutes later he again hears a small voice, "That's a nice shirt." The guy asks the bartender, "Who is that?" The bartender says, "Those are the peanuts. They're complimentary!"

INTERESTING DATES IN MARCH AA HISTORY

MAR 1939: Lois quit her job at Macy's, didn't want to ask for another leave of absence.

MAR 1936: Bill & Lois visit Fitz M. in Maryland. He's "Our Southern Friend" in the Big Book stories.

MAR 16 1940: Bill W. moves the Alcoholic Foundation (which later became GSO) office from 17-19 William St., Newark NJ, to 30 Vesey St., NYC.

MAR 01 1941: Saturday Evening Post article on AA by Jack Alexander creates national sensation; AA membership will quadruple in one year from 2,000 to 8,000. (<https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2015/12/aa/>)

MAR 1946: "The March of Time" a documentary on AA is filmed by NY AA office.

MAR 1947: 1st AA group is formed in London, England.

MAR 03 1941: Nell Wing started work at the Alcoholic Foundation, 415 Lexington Ave, NYC. Starting as a typist earning \$32 a week (\$260 today) she stayed for 36 years.

MAR 1949: Dr. Bob considered idea A.A. conference premature.

MAR 29 1949: A second Saturday Evening Post article was written by Jack Alexander titled "The Drunkard's Best Friend." (<https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2015/12/the-drunkards-best-friend/>)

MAR 22 1955: William Duncan Silkworth, M.D., died at NY Towns Hospital. "Silky" treated Bill W. & countless other drunks.

MAR 21 1966: Ebby T died (of emphysema). He had 2 ½ years sobriety.



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LA VIÑA**

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aagrapevine.org/podcast

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN APRIL, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to info@aa.district18.org by 04/01/23, being mindful of our steps and traditions. Any suggestions or comments are always appreciated and can be sent to info@aa-district18.org.

THANK YOU for subscribing to our newsletter!

Upcoming Events for March

GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP

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

GSR MEETING-HYBRID

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

FRIED CHICKEN POTLUCK/SPEAKER MEETING THURSDAY NIGHT STEP MEETING

- DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD, 2023
- TIME: 6:00 PM POTLUCK/7:00 PM SPEAKER
- PLACE: ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
146 NORTH MAIN STREET, GLEN CARBON, IL
- SPEAKER: CARRIE R.
- PLEASE BRING A SIDE-DISH.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PRE-GSC SERVICE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

- DATE: APRIL 1ST, 2023
- TIME: 9:00 AM
- LOCATION: ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
625 ST. NICHOLAS DRIVE, O'FALLON, IL

UNITY CAMPING AND FLOAT TRIP 2023

- DATE: JUN 23RD @1:00 PM – JUN 25TH
@10:00AM, 2023
- LOCATION: BLUE SPRINGS RANCH
1246 BLUE SPRINGS ROAD, BOURBON, MO
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

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Illinois District 18 AA Activity Committee Presents

Unity Camping & Float Trip 2023

June 23, 24, & 25

Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday (Checkout)

Saturday Night's Meal will be provided by Activity Committee

Blue Springs Ranch

1246 Blue Springs Road Bourbon, MO 65441

800.333.8007 • www.vacationbsr.com

- You'll need to make your own reservations, and payments, so you can let them know where you'd like to camp and float. We will be at the primitive campsites 72-74.
- All 12 Step Programs Welcome.

Camping

- Please let them know that you are with the **District 18 Activities Committee** and they will place you as close as possible to our campsites.
- 20\$ per person, per night, for primitive camping. See reverse for prices and other options.
- You'll need to BYO Food, camping gear, etc. Saturday night's meal will be provided.
- Bottled water and coffee will be provided.
- AA meetings both Friday and Saturday nights. Times TBD.

Floating

- Saturday. Let them know that you'd like to be on the **11am Float Departure**. That is when we will be floating as a group.
- Bring a small cooler and pack some food. We will be eating lunch on the river.
- You can just come for the float and leave afterward. Up to you!

Please let us know how many you have attending Saturday's dinner, so we can have the right amount of food. District18activities@gmail.com

See other side for camp map and prices



2023 Blue Springs Ranch Price Sheet

(Prices do not include taxes. All prices are subject to change without notice.)

CABIN	BEDROOMS	BEDS	FIREPLACE	PRICING & CABIN CAPACITY PER NIGHT																
				1-9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
RC	8	9	Gas	\$520	\$575	\$635	\$695	\$755	\$815	\$875	\$935	\$995	\$1,055							
22	8	8	Gas	\$515	\$575	\$635	\$695	\$755	\$815	\$875	\$935									
23	8	8	Gas	\$515	\$575	\$635	\$695	\$755	\$815	\$875	\$935									
LC	5	6	Wood	\$515	\$575	\$635	\$695													
21	6	8	Gas	\$570	\$632	\$695	\$756	\$818	\$880	\$942	\$1,004	Includes Private Pool								
				1-8	9	10	11	12	13	14										
BH	5	7	None	\$450	\$505	\$560	\$615	\$670	\$725	\$780										
RH	4	5	Wood	\$450	\$505	\$560														
				1-5	6	7	8													
4	3	4	None	\$285	\$340	\$395	\$450													
5	3	4	Wood	\$285	\$340	\$395	\$450													
6	3	4	None	\$285	\$340	\$395	\$450													
8	3	4	Wood	\$285	\$340	\$395	\$450													
9	2	4	Wood	\$285	\$340	\$395	\$450													
				1-4	5	6														
3	2	3	Wood	\$230	\$285	\$340														
10	2	3	Wood	\$230	\$285	\$340														
11	2	3	Wood	\$230	\$285	\$340														
				1-2	3	4														
7	1	1	Wood	\$160																
12	1	1	Wood	\$160																
13	1	1	Wood	\$160																
14	1	2	Wood	\$160	\$195	\$230														
24	1	2	Wood	\$160	\$195	\$230														
25	1	2	Wood	\$160	\$195	\$230														
26	1	2	Wood	\$160	\$195	\$230														
27	1	2	Wood	\$160	\$195	\$230														
				1-3	4															
15	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
16	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
17	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
18	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
19	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
20	2	2	Wood	\$195	\$230															
				1-2	3	4														
A	1	2	None	\$70	\$90	\$110														
B	1	2	None	\$70	\$90	\$110														
C	1	2	None	\$70	\$90	\$110														
D	1	2	None	\$70	\$90	\$110														

TRAIL RIDES
Call for pricing & age requirements

UTV/Golf Carts
\$25 fee (covers the entire stay). We are offering a Season Pass for \$75.00. You must register the UTV or Golf Cart at the time of check in, we will issue you a pass for the UTV/Golf Cart

There will be an additional \$2.00 per person per night fee on Peak Season weekends:
Peak Weekends: 6/23, 6/24, 6/30, 7/1, 7/7, 7/8, 7/14, 7/15, 7/21, 7/28, 7/29, 8/4, 8/5, 8/11, & 8/12

DAY PASS		
ADULT	8-12 YR	7-UNDER YR
\$14.00	\$7.00	FREE

CABIN PET FEE
\$50 per night/per pet.
30 pound max. 2 pet max

BASIC SITES & RV SITES			
	Adult	8-12 yrs	7 & under
Basic Tent Site	\$16.00	\$9.00	FREE
	2 Adults	8-12 yrs	7 & under
RV-Electric/Water/Sewer	\$52	\$9.00	FREE
RV-Electric/Water	\$50	\$9.00	FREE
Electric Site	\$48	\$9.00	FREE

FLOAT PRICES		
Float Prices includes Bus Shuttle	Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun
Fiberglass Canoe	\$62	\$62
Aluminum Canoe	\$58	\$58
4-Man Raft	\$120	\$129
6-Man Raft	\$200	\$215
8-Man Raft	\$280	\$301
10-Man Raft	\$360	\$387
Single Kayak	\$43	\$43
Tube/Cooler Tube	\$30	\$30
Lazy River	\$30	\$30

There will be an additional \$4.00 per person fee for Peak Saturdays: 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12

*Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure time as buses leave promptly on the hour

Third person in canoe: \$25.00

FLOATING DEPARTURE TIMES						
5-Mile	8am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm
10-Mile	9am - rafts allowed if water conditions are favorable					

Rafts are priced 1 under capacity; to fill raft to capacity extra charge of \$40

We will be at the primitive campsites 72 thru 74.

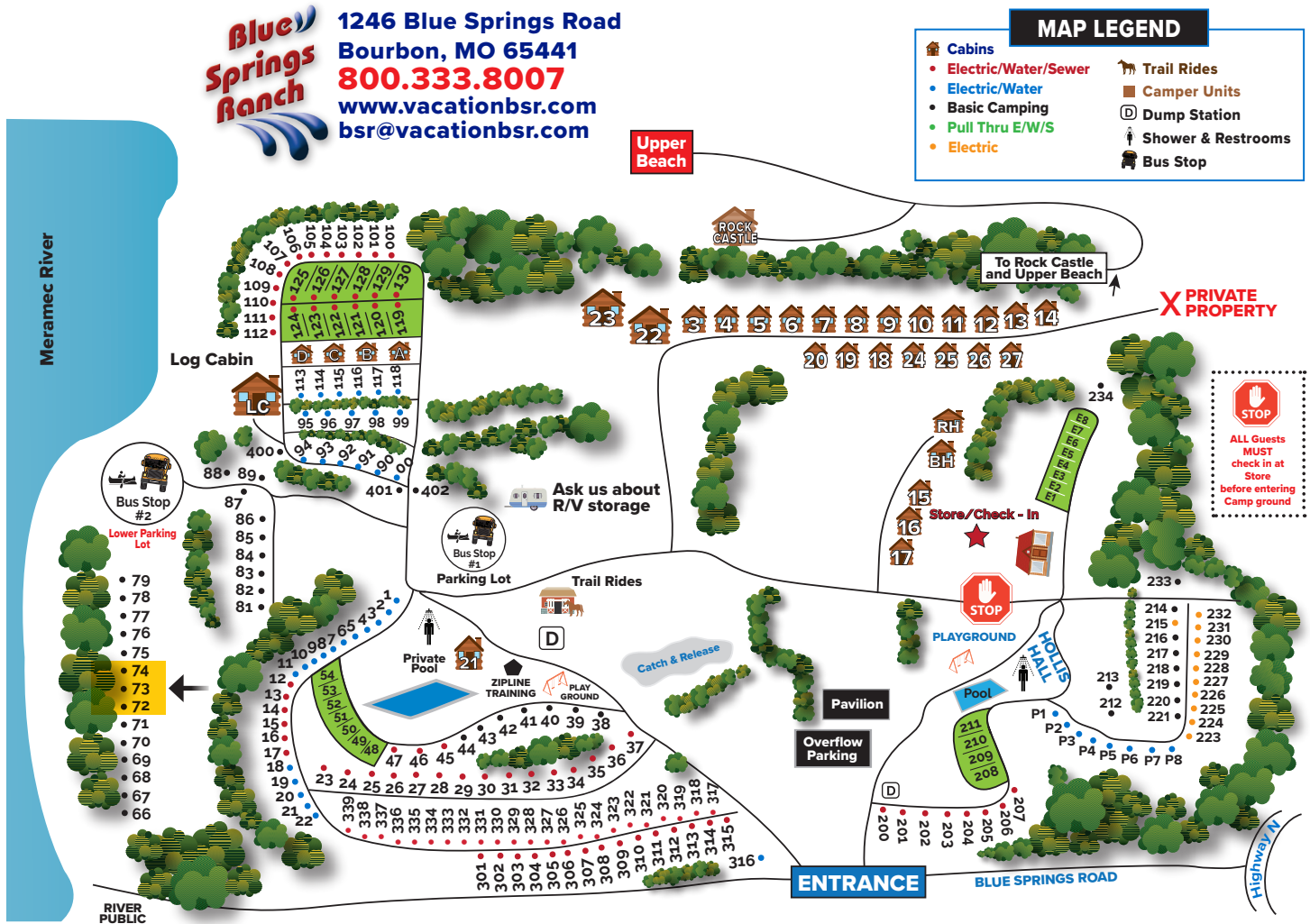
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Blue Springs Ranch
1246 Blue Springs Road
Bourbon, MO 65441
800.333.8007
www.vacationbsr.com
bsr@vacationbsr.com



Campers who set up on the wrong site will be made to move. If in doubt which site belongs to you, please ask a staff member.

Do not set up on a vacant site without authorization from the store, as it may already be reserved. Management reserves the right to relocate any customer, should the need occur. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy your stay at the Blue Springs Ranch!