

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2023



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- **The Women Living in the Solution** meeting is now an open meeting.
- ***New Meeting* Solutions Seekers** is an open Big Book meeting that will start meeting this Wednesday (3/22/23) at 7p at Unity Church in Collinsville.
- **District 18 Website** has a new tab, Volunteer. This tab opens the D18 Volunteer Form.
- **It Works, It Really Does** meeting, Alton on Mondays at 10am is no longer meeting.



AA Grapevine Discussion: Why I Love My Home Group

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 May's *AA Grapevine* issue, and are related to Home Groups.

"Do you have a home group? What are some things you love about it? What are some helpful things you've learned there? What commitments have helped you most? What are some ways you've helped the group? Has finding a home group been challenging?"

I came to A.A. by the suggestion of my counselor when I was leaving rehab. I thought the only thing I needed to do to remain sober was attend A.A. meetings. At some of those meetings, they would ask if anyone needed a home group and if they did to see one of the home group members after the meeting. Well, I never liked commitment, so I never asked any of those home group members. I didn't even ask what a home group was, but I kept going to a lot of meetings.

Then I starting working with a sponsor, and he suggested that I get a home group and explained what a home group was. There was one

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	D18 News, Home Group
2	Home Group (cont'd) / Integrity
3	Integrity (cont'd) / In Memory of / Interesting Dates
4	Events
5	Fliers and such

Home Group (cont'd from pg. 1)

home group that I knew I could make every week and I liked the few members the home group had, so I joined it. Then I sat back and did nothing for a month or so, but I attended every week. My home group is a discussion meeting, and had been started sometime in December 2000. Attendance was always good. It was the largest attended meeting of the meetings I attended, and there were a lot of regulars in attendance who had their own home groups. I got used to seeing those familiar faces at my meeting every week and looked forward to hearing their comments on the discussion topic.

After a while, I began asking if any help was needed in setting up the meeting and started helping. Things started clicking, and all of a sudden, the great lock down of 2020 shut down all our meetings. I panicked because I couldn't go to my meeting or any other meeting. How was I going to remain sober without meetings? Then I heard about Zoom meetings a few groups were starting, and I liked the idea so I took that to our members. There were only about 4 home group members at the time and I had the most computer skills of them all, so I took the responsibility of setting up the Zoom meetings, which I had to learn how to do. Once that was done, I helped other AA's who needed help in connecting to the Zoom meetings, mine or their home group. Seeing how others struggled to connect to the Zoom meetings, I wrote a guide, "How to join an online AA meeting" and had it posted on the District 18 webpage. Through Zoom, I had my home group meeting back and I was relieved. I never thought I would need my meeting so much when I couldn't go to it.

Eventually in-person meetings would start up again and I began getting to the meeting early to help set up, and make coffee. I soon began to like getting there early, because there were just a few members there setting up for the meeting and we could talk about sobriety or sometimes just talk in general. This is when I started to really get to know my fellow home group members. It was a meeting before the meeting, kind of.

I never realized how valuable a home group could be to my sobriety. We look after each other and let all home group members if we are going to be absent from the meeting. We care about each other's sobriety.

John G



The vital principle of 5th Step is restoring "Integrity". Freedom with gratitude and useful service are the rewards.

Integrity, what in the world does that mean? When I came into A.A., nobody told me anything about integrity. I was amazed at the experiences members shared of their life journey into alcoholism. Early in the program, I couldn't believe some of the things I was sharing. To a normal person, my stories sounded insane. The way I treated family, friends, co-workers, strangers and myself was not in their best interest. Everything about my life had devolved to a bottom that seemed perfectly normal to me, only me. I did whatever it took to keep the alcohol flowing through me. The members that listened to my stories seemed to understand what I was sharing. I came to understand that they had been on that same path, the isolated road to nowhere.

I was working the steps, learning vital principles along the way. The principles of each step weren't clearly identified as I completed each step, yet I either learned them or they were restored. Living with the principles make life better, day by day.

Back to my original question, what does integrity mean? I had to look it up in the dictionary. Integrity means adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. I learned right away working the 1st step that if I were to succeed in this program and have any chance of remaining sober, I needed to be honest. No more lying. The majority of the problems I carried into the program were due to my dishonest actions and behavior. As the years of drinking went on, the problems kept piling up. Most were forgotten by drinking those away, others forgotten with time. But they were still there, just not at the forefront. There were days where something would happen which would jar a memory of something I had regretted doing. It would make me feel guilty for a moment, until I could drink it away.

continued on page 3

Integrity (cont'd from pg. 2)

Step 5 offered a way to clear my past by admitting to God, myself and another person the exact nature of my wrongs. Having gone to confession with a priest many times in my younger days and now looking back, I realized I'd never given a honest confession. I always held something back, usually because it was too embarrassing to tell the priest. Or I just didn't want to be honest and be held accountable for my actions. This step allowed me to share my all my wrongs and to finally admit those to someone. God was there also, because I asked him to be there. It took a long time to bring it all out. When I was satisfied that nothing had been missed, I spend some time reflecting on what just happened. I finally felt relieved, and my plate was clean. This was the first step into Integrity.

I never again want to live my life like I did in the past. For myself, I have to live a honest life, for without honesty, I will never have Integrity. I found that living a life of moral and ethical principles was so much easier and rewarding. Mark Twain had it right, "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." Working the steps of A.A. has taught me how to be honest, and because of that, integrity just became part of my life. I'll close with this quote "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

JJG

In Memory Of

On Friday, April 28, 2023 our Fellowship suffered the loss of a longtime member, Mike Mainer. Mike was a tireless carrier of the message in District 18 Southern Illinois and in Western Missouri District 15 where he resided these recent years.

Mike came to us on May 29th 1987 and was an active member from day one. He sponsored many, helped more and was always willing to lend a hand for the fellowship. He served as GSR and DCM in District 18 and as an active member of Friday Night Big Book at St. John's and the infamous Bulldogs in Edwardsville. He was also active at the Dry Dock in Osage Beach, MO and in the groups in Lebanon, MO.

He will be missed in the fellowship in Illinois and Missouri and by his many friends and family.

INTERESTING DATES IN MARCH AA HISTORY

MAY 11 1935: Alone in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel in Akron OH between the bar & telephone, Bill W. makes 11 phone calls & finally gets Henrietta Seiberling, who introduces him to Dr. Bob.

MAY 12 1935: Bill & Dr. Bob meet for the 1st time in Akron OH at Henrietta Seiberling's Gate House. It was Mother's Day.

MAY 1938: Bill W. & other AA's begin writing the Big Book.

MAY 1939: Clarence S. of Cleveland OH tells Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he won't be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron & will start "AA" meetings in Cleveland.

MAY 1940: Washington D.C. Sunday Star reports founding of 1st AA group in the nations capitol, meeting every Tuesday night.

MAY 1941: 1st Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee Hotel • Jacksonville FL newspaper reports start of a new AA group.

MAY 1942: The Journal-Herald in Dayton OH runs a huge story on AA, with photos of members in Halloween masks to protect their anonymity.

MAY 1943: In the early days of AA, the Fellowship sought & received more publicity than today. The Sacramento Union newspaper reported "50% of AA 'cures' take effect immediately & are permanent."

MAY 1950: Shortly before his death, Dr. Bob tells Bill, "I reckon we ought to be buried like other folks."

MAY 1971: Bill W. is buried in small private ceremony in East Dorset VT. Dr. John Morris, AA GSB Chairman, gives the eulogy.

Upcoming Events for April

D18 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE MEETING

- DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2023
- TIME: 2:00PM-3:00 PM
- PLACE: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
409 BROADWAY, UNIT C-1, SOUTH ROXANA, IL
- TOPIC: FUTURE PROJECTS

TUESDAY NIGHT NEWCOMER'S BBQ SPEAK AND EAT PICNIC

- DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 9TH, 2023
- TIME: 7:00PM-8:30 PM
- PLACE: HARTFORD PARK, IL
TURN EAST ON 7TH STREET OFF OF HWY 3
- SPEAKER: NIKKI E.

NATURE HIKES

- DATE: MAY 13TH, 2023
- TIME: 9:00 AM
- HIKE #1:
WELDON SPRING LEWIS AND CLARK HIKING TRAIL
7394-7398 MO 94, ST. CHARLES, MO 63304
- HIKE #2:
BUDDHIST MONASTERY MID AMERICA ASSOCIATION
299 HEGER LANE, AUGUSTA, MO 6333
-BRING A LUNCH AND THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON
THE MONASTERY GROUNDS.

GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 21ST, 2023
- TIME: 2:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

TUESDAY NIGHT SERENITY GROUP 5TH TUESDAY POTLUCK

- DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 30TH, 2023
- TIME: 6:30 PM EAT, 7:00 PM SPEAKER
- PLACE: NEW RIVERS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2620 N CENTER ST., MARYVILLE, IL
- SPEAKER: JOHN G

Mark Your Calendars

SUNDAY MORNING BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2023
- TIME: BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP 8:00 AM
MEETING STARTS AT 9:00 AM
- PLACE: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
409 BROADWAY, UNIT C-1, SOUTH ROXANA, IL
- PANCAKES AND SAUSAGES.
- OPEN MEETING

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.



DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT OR A BIRTHDAY IN JUNE, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter?

Please send any of the above to info@aa.district18.org by 06/04/23, 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!



Illinois District 18 AA Activity Committee Presents

Nature Hikes

Saturday, May 13, starting @ 9 am

Hike #1:

Weldon Spring Lewis and Clark Hiking Trail

7394-7398 MO 94 St. Charles 63304

Meet at hiking trail parking lot.

After-heading to Hike #2:

Buddhist Monastery Mid America Association

299 Heger Lane, Augusta Mo, 63332

Bring a lunch and we'll have a meeting on the Monastery grounds.

Questions-info call/text: 618-806-7306.





Sunday Morning Big Book Study Group

@ The CSO South Roxanna

409 Broadway Ave. South Roxana, IL 62087



Sunday Morning Pancake & Sausage

Breakfast

Sunday June 4th 2023,

Open Meeting

Everyone is welcomed for breakfast and fellowship

**Pancakes and Sausages provided by the Sunday Morning
Big Book Home Group.**

Breakfast & Fellowship Starts @ 8:00am

Meeting starts at 9:00am





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 BYOFood, 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.

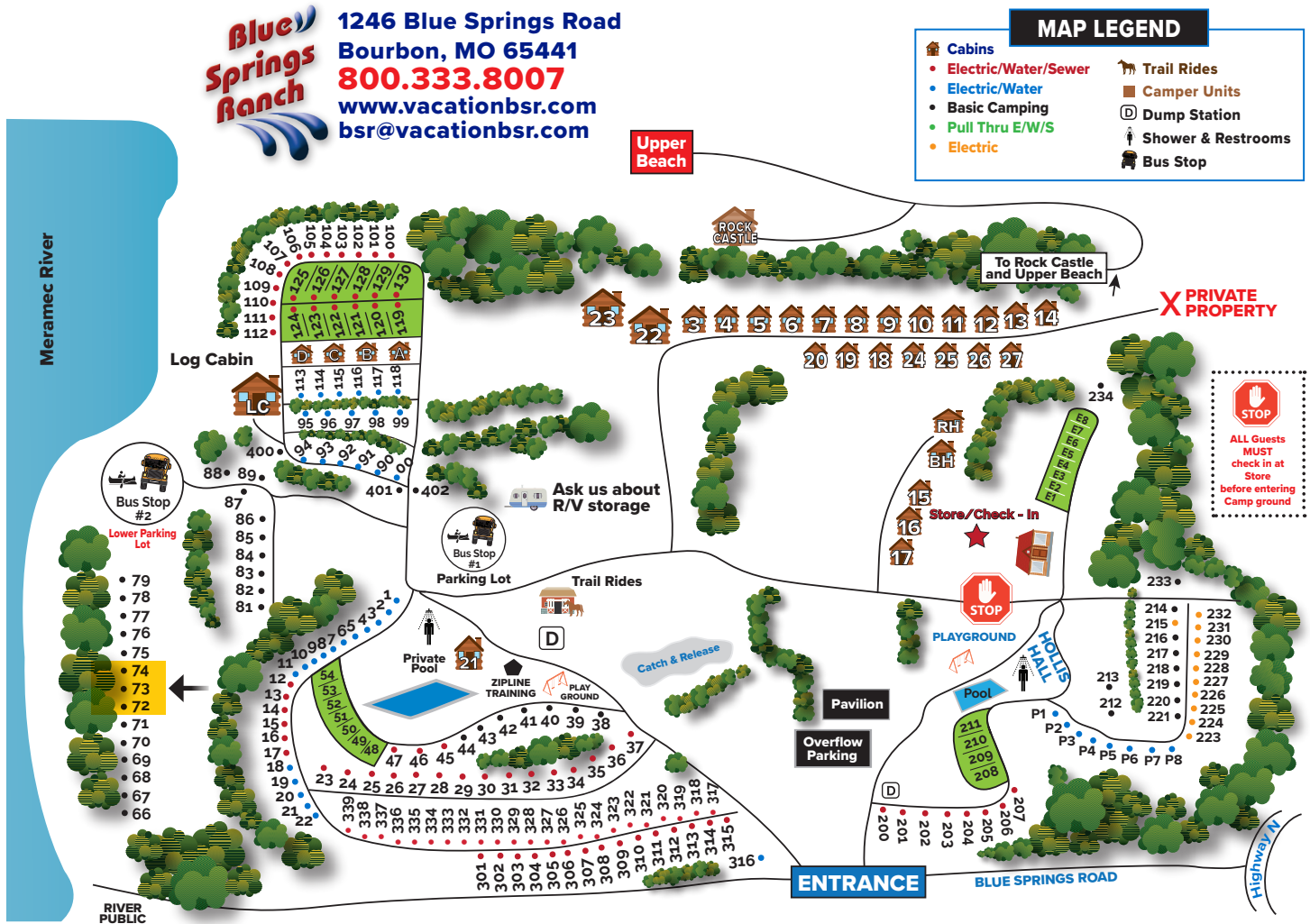
Camping

Let Blue Springs Ranch know that you are with the **District 18 Activities Committee** and they will place you as close as possible to our campsites

Floating

Let them know that you'd like to be on the **11am Float Departure**. That is when we will be floating as a group.

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

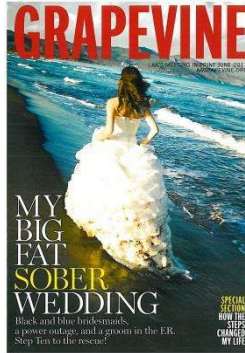


Campers who set up on the wrong site will be made to move. If in doubt which site belongs to you, please ask a staff member.

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!

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

Subscription Order Form



One year (12 issues) \$28.97
(Canada \$35.00 US; Other \$42.00 US)

Two years (24 issues) \$54.00
(Canada \$65.00 US; Other \$78.00 US)

Number of copies: _____ *

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Payment method

Check / Money Order US\$ _____ Bill me
 VISA MasterCard Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp: _____ / _____ **CVV/CID:** _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Grapevine, PO Box 16867, North Hollywood, CA, 91615-6867
Phone: 800.631.6025
Fax: 818.487.4550
Online orders: www.aagrapevine.org

2-19 copies, 10% discount off the single copy price; 20-39 copies, 15%, 40 or more, 20%