

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2023



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- ***New Meeting* Finding Freedom** is a new meeting in Greenville that meets on Thursday at 12:30 pm at the Bond County Senior Center.
- **The Grateful and Sober Group** has changed their meeting time to 1-2 pm on Saturdays and to 5-6 pm on Thursdays. They have also added a **new meeting** on Tuesdays from 5-6pm on **Zoom**.
- **District 18 Website** has a new tab, Volunteer. This tab opens the D18 Volunteer Form.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	D18 News, Character Defects
2	Character Defects (cont'd) / Willingness
3	Willingness (cont'd) / AA Cleveland / Interesting Dates
4	Events / Birthdays
5	Fliers and such



AA Grapevine Discussion: Character Defects

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 June's AA Grapevine issue, and are related to Character Defects.

'What are some character defects that plague you most? Are you still holding on to some? What do you do when one comes up? What have you learned from your sponsor? The literature? Prayer? What was your behavior like when drinking compared to what it's like now?'

It is a most interesting topic when character defects comes up for discussion. I would like to believe that all my character defects discovered in Step 4 would have been removed by now. Most have but some are lingering. I've heard members say at meetings that 'God will remove all defects except the ones you're still using.' That seemed to make sense, as I could not remember most of my defects after God took them from me, but there were a few that would make their appearance from time to time. The beauty of step 4 is it showed me that I was putting my character

continued on page 2

defects to use on a consistent basis.

In a pamphlet "Going Through The Steps – A.A. Sponsorship Pamphlet" by Clarence Snyder (1944), 20 defects of character were listed. 1.) Resentment (Anger), 2.) Fear, (Cowardice), 3.) Self Pity, 4.) Self justification, 5.) Self importance (egotism), 6.) Self condemnation (guilt), 7.) Lying, evasiveness, dishonesty, 8.) Impatience, 9.) Hate, 10.) False pride, phoniness, denial, 11.) Jealousy, 12.) Envy, 13.) Laziness, 14.) Procrastination, 15.) Insincerity, 16.) Negative thinking, 17.) Immoral thinking, 18.) Perfectionism (Intolerance), 19.) Criticizing, loose talk, gossip, 20.) Greed.

Now that I knew what defects I had, I knew I didn't want to be that person any more. I truly wanted to change, to become a better person. So in Step 6, I became willing to change and accept God's help with these defects.

Two defects that plague me are Impatience and Self importance when driving. These defects were really bad early in my program. When I was trying to make it to a meeting on time and there was someone in front of me in no particular rush to go anywhere. Don't they know that I am trying to get to an A.A. meeting? Or lately, when I am trying to get to work by a certain time, and there's a semi-truck driver poking along in the fast lane blocking all the traffic up for miles. When I do my 10th step inventory, these crop up from time to time. Using the tools of the 4th step, I can see my part, which was I didn't leave sooner. So my impatience and self importance is due to my lack preparation. Maybe I should leave sooner, as getting somewhere early is not necessarily a bad thing. So I am working on that.

When one of these defects pops up, after I recognize it happening, I say the Serenity Prayer then ask God to remove that thought. If anything needs to be done because of my actions, I take care of it with an amends and/or self-reflection. I am sure to document it in my inventory list. If that defect keeps appearing in my list, I need to take action and ask what I need to do to eliminate it. Every day I say the 7th step prayer, asking for God's assistance. Maybe, just maybe, if I am doing everything to stop using those reoccurring defects, God will remove those.

'How It Works' tells me that 'No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles...The principles we have set down are guides to progress.' Compared to where my life was when I was drinking, today it is so much better managed. The steps of A.A. were given to me to use in my life. Not just once, but every day. The steps are how I manage my life. When that hiccup occurs, I have the tools to address the root cause.

John G



The vital principle of the 6th Step is the "Willingness" to have all the character defects become objectionable to us.

Up to this point of working the steps, I've incorporated things in my life that I haven't done in a long time, if ever. Adding prayer and belief in a power greater than myself were huge steps. But each of those first five steps took some type of willingness on my part to complete to the best of my ability. I discovered what type of character defects had developed in me over the course of my drinking career and recalled the exact nature of my wrongs, admitting those to God, myself and another person. So now in step 6, I had to make a decision on what I was to do next.

My past is littered with prayer requests asking God to get me out of whatever jam I had gotten myself into because of my drinking. Insincere requests just to ease my suffering. These prayers and requests never included what God's will was, just my will.

At step 6, I had to decide if I was willing to let go of all of these character defects. After living with these defects for all these years, I truly didn't like the person I had become,

continued on page 3

Willingness (cont'd from pg. 2)

and this step allowed me to start changing who I am. But I couldn't remove those defects on my own, I had to trust in God. I became willing to let go of my old self and I now had the willingness to allow God into my life for him to remove those defects.

JJG

The following is from A.A. Cleveland:

AA's are often asked "What is the difference between 'defects of character' in Step Six and 'shortcomings' in Step Seven?"

According to G.S.O.'s archives Bill W. commented about his use of "Defects of Character" and "Shortcomings" interchangeably in the Steps in a personal letter he wrote dated March 7, 1963.

Thanks for your inquiry, requesting to know the difference between 'defects of character' and 'shortcomings' — as those words appear in the Steps. Actually I don't remember any particular significance in these phrases. In my mind, the meaning is identical; I guess I just used two ways of expression, rather than to repeat myself. It's just as simple as that.

In another letter, dated November 16, 1965, Bill again responded to a similar inquiry. His letter read, in part:

When these Steps were being done, I didn't want to repeat the phrase 'character defects' twice in succession. Therefore in Step Seven, I substituted 'shortcomings', thereby equating 'shortcomings' with 'defects.' When reading most people do equate that way and there seems to be no difficulty. I used them as though they both meant exactly the same thing — which they appear to many people.

Source: <https://www.aacle.org/defects-of-character/>

INTERESTING DATES IN JUNE AA HISTORY

JUNE 17 1935: Dr. Bob's last drink. • Bill W. & Dr. Bob founded the Fellowship in Akron OH. • Thousands of AA's from all over the world gather in Akron each year for AA Founder's Day Weekend

JUNE 1938: Lois gets mad at Bill & visits her sister in NJ. She said this was one of the two times Bill came close to drinking again.

JUNE 1938: 1st use of the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" • Hank P. & Bill W. solicit rich people on the "Rockefeller" but get no money • Jim B. (Big Book story "Vicious Cycle") sobers up • Two associates of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., tells the press about a book "not to bear any author's name but to be by "Alcoholics Anonymous."

JUNE 1939: New York Times reviewer writes the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

JUNE 1940: Some San Quentin prisoners read the Big Book, decide that they're alcoholics & form AA's 1st prison group.

JUNE 1941: Ruth Hock tells Bill about "Serenity Prayer" a NY AA'er discovered. AA adopts the prayer.

JUNE 1942: Columnist Earl Wilson reports NYC police commissioner Valentine sent 6 cops to AA, and now they are sober. Valentine credits AA with the fact "there are fewer suicides in my files."

JUNE 1942: Cleveland OH's AA "Central Bulletin" reports a new 24 hour service number in the telephone directory.

JUNE 1944: First issue of the AA Grapevine is published.

Upcoming Events for June

GRATEFUL AND SOBER GROUP SPEAKER MEETING

- DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND, 2023
- TIME: 5:00PM-6:00 PM
- PLACE: ZOOM MEETING
- SPEAKER: AMANDA P.
- MEETING ID: 4085088630
- PASSCODE:NGES9Z
- FLIER ATTACHED

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.

GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2023
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

Mark Your Calendars

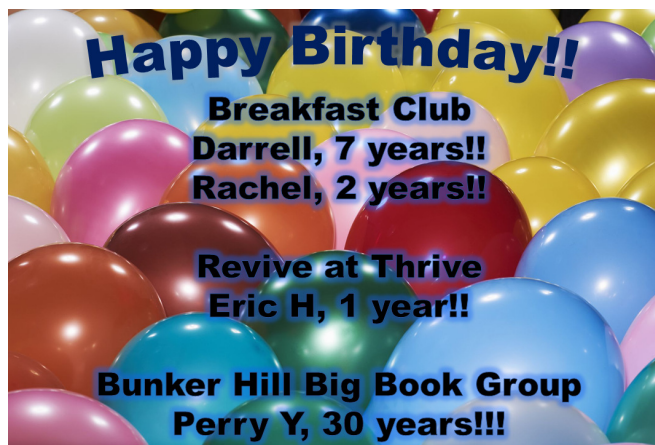
GSR MEETING-HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 16TH, 2023
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

TROY WELCOME HOME GROUP ANNUAL POTLUCK & SPEAKER MEETING

- DATE: MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023
- TIME: DINNER 6:00 PM
MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM
- PLACE: ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH
511 S. MAIN STREET, TROY, IL
- PULLED PORK, LEMONADE AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED.
- PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH AND/OR DESSERT.
- SPEAKER: ED H. FROM SPARTA, IL
- OPEN MEETING

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



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

Please send any of the above to info@aa.district18.org by 07/02/23, 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!



SPEAKER MEETING



Thursday June 22nd 5pm to 6pm

*Grateful and sober group is
having a speaker meeting Thursday
June 22nd from 5pm to 6pm
on zoom*

Meeting ID 4085088630

Passcode nGeS9Z



Our speaker is,



Amanda P.



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.

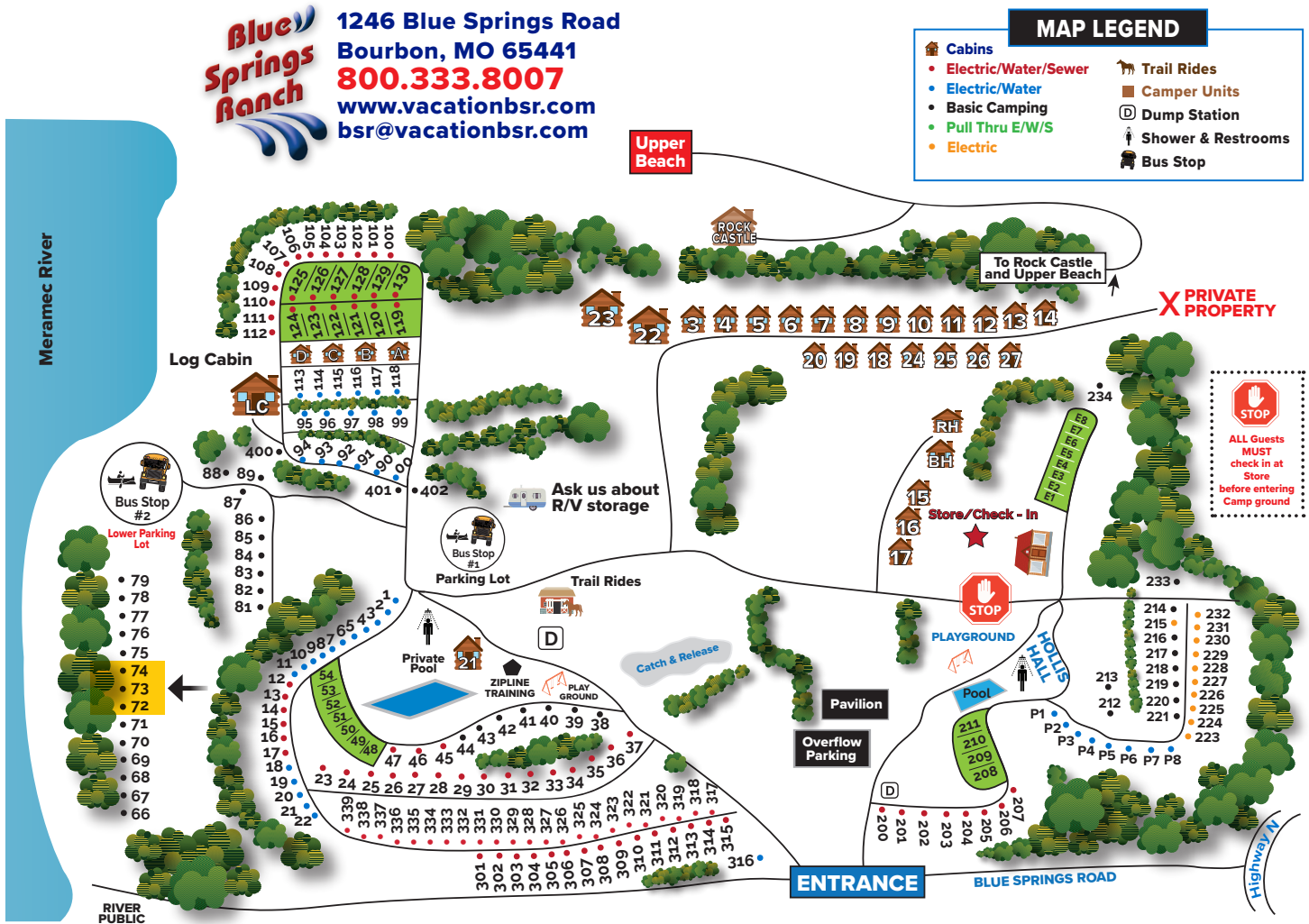
Camping

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



MAP LEGEND

- Cabins
 - Electric/Water/Sewer
 - Electric/Water
 - Basic Camping
 - Pull Thru E/W/S
 - Electric
- Trail Rides
- Camper Units
- Dump Station
- Shower & Restrooms
- Bus Stop

STOP
ALL Guests MUST check in at Store before entering Camp ground

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!

Troy Welcome Home Group

Join us for our Annual Potluck!

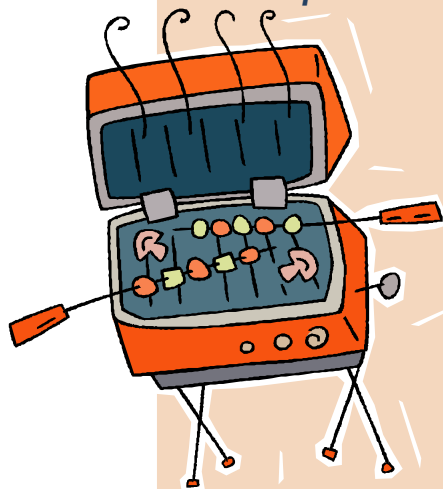
When: July 31, 2023

*Where: St. Jerome Catholic Church
511 S. Main Street, Troy, IL*

(ADDITIONAL PARKING BEHIND CHURCH OFF WAYLAND)

Time: 6:00 PM dinner; 7:00 PM speaker

Speaker: Ed H. from Sparta, IL



**Pulled pork, lemonade,
and coffee will be provided.**

Please bring a side dish and/or dessert.

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%