

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2024



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- ***ISCYPAA *** ISCYPAA is looking for groups to sponsor a list of items for the upcoming ISCYPAA Conference due to increased costs. Any group/district that sponsors will be highlighted in the program. Sponsorship amounts range from \$200-\$500. For more information: contact: host@iscypaa.org



AA Grapevine Discussion: Difficult Times

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 Difficult Times.

Share about some difficult times you've had in sobriety. What are some things that helped you stay sane and sober through it? How were AA meetings helpful? How did prayer or fellowship help? How about sponsorship? How are you able to help others now?

Since I've been in this program, I am fortunate that I have not had a personally difficult circumstance to contend with. But recently, I've lost a lifelong friend to this disease and had written about that a few months ago. I've witnessed my brother's wife's recovery from her cancer diagnosis. The individual I sponsors mother passed during his 1st year of sobriety. While those were difficult situations from afar, my sobriety wasn't tested. But my sobriety allowed me to be

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Difficult Times (cont'd from pg. 1)

be there for those who were dealing with those difficult situations. Being there for someone during their difficult situation was something that I ran from when I was drinking. A lot of the avoidance was fear driven and/or I viewed it as an inconvenience. It interfered with what I wanted to do.

Since I've been here in AA, I've seen other members go through difficult times. I've seen members lose their spouse, and they immediately came to a meeting. I've seen those members stay in close contact with AA. Just like I learned about being an alcoholic by attending meetings, and finding the similarities in their shares instead of the differences, I can learn from them how they handle difficult situations during their sobriety, and recall that lesson when my difficulty appears.

My disease tells me the solution is a drink to deal with my difficulty. Even though I am sober today, my alcoholic disease keeps looking for a way back into my life. Working the 12 steps, prayer and service everyday keeps my disease at bay. If I am not working the program of AA, I will become a victim once again of selfish and self-centered ways.

There will come a day when my sobriety is tested through a difficult circumstance. That's life and I now accept that. Expecting the unexpected is to worry, as I work to live in today. Staying active in AA, going to meetings, talking with others, prepares me for the unexpected. And when the unexpected happens, I know my Higher Power and AA will be there to carry me. I won't have to face it alone.

JJG



Tradition 2 Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. The D18 newsletter committee felt that republishing these questions related to each tradition would help

further the growth of individuals and groups in their understandings of the traditions, and might stimulate some dialogue. This month's questions reflect questions related to Tradition 1.

We continue in providing answers to some of the questions posed, to show how these traditions, which are some of AA's principles, can be practiced in all our affairs.

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Answer to #5:

When I came into A.A., I was content to sit back and just go to meetings. My only mission was to remain sober. I wasn't interested in how A.A. worked and I thought all I had to do to remain sober was attend meetings. But to my amazement, somehow my Saturday morning meeting was ready to go at 8 AM and somehow the meeting room was cleaned up after the meeting. In fact, all the meetings I went to were set up and ready, even if I showed up early.

After I had been sober about 7 months or so, the covid lockdown pushed me towards service because there were no in person meetings to go to anymore and I was panicking. Then I had heard of some groups using Zoom for their meetings, so I asked my home group members what they thought about bringing our group meeting into Zoom. They said that if I could set it up, they would show up. So I learned about Zoom, set up the meeting, ran the

continued on page 3

Zoom during the meeting, and that kept me sober through a trying time. I had just learned about the 3rd legacy, service.

Without many prospects for individual to sponsor, I decided my best course of action was to include service work in my action plan. I had been living what I thought was a pretty comfortable life while I was drinking because I only thought about myself. I didn't volunteer for anything and always had an excuse when asked to help someone do something. In A.A., I found the one way I can get outside myself is to do something that I probably would never do. To do something that I knew nothing about and might even make me uncomfortable. In many cases, it was that uncomfortable feeling that allowed me to grow in this program. Professional hockey player Wayne Gretzky is quoted as saying, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." As far as I know, if I avoid service work, I might be the one to lose out on a life lesson and a gold opportunity to grow in this fellowship. As well as allow myself to grow outside of myself.

JJG

Grapevine Daily Quote

Feb 2 2024

"AA has taught me that I'm the architect of my own success or happiness. The quality of my sobriety is up to me – it will be what I want it to be."

Keego Harbor, Mich., June 1998, From: "Paradoxes of Sobriety", Beginner's Book

December 20, 2023

"No one can express love and self-pity at the same moment; showing concern for others helps us to see how foolish we have been."

Dayton, OH, April 1962, "Ever Been on a Dry Drunk", Best of Grapevine, Volume 1

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INTERESTING DATES IN FEBRUARY AA HISTORY

FEB 1937: THE OXFORD GROUP'S "ALCOHOLIC SQUADRON" MEETS AT HANK P.'S HOME IN NJ.

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

FEB 1939: Noted theologian Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, church minister in Riverside NY, favorably reviews the Big Book.

FEB 1940: Bill W. & seven other AA's ask 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for money at a dinner at the Union Club in NY. They receive \$2,200 (all of which was paid back).

FEB 1940: Houston Press runs first of six anonymous articles on AA by Larry J.

FEB 1940: The 1st clubhouse for AA's opened at 334 1/2 West 24th Street in NYC.

FEB 1941: Pittsburgh Telegraph runs a story on 1st AA group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

FEB 1941: Baltimore Sunday Sun reports Baltimore's 1st AA group (begun in June 1940) has grown from 3 to 40 members.

FEB 1941: The Toledo Blade publishes 1st of three articles on AA by Seymour Rothman.

FEB 1943: San Francisco CA Bulletin reporter Marsh Maslin interviews Ricardo, a San Quentin Prison AA group member.

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

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

Upcoming Events for FEBRUARY

41ST ISCPAA HOST – GAME SHOW NIGHT

- DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024
- TIME: 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM
- PLACE: REGENCY CONFERENCE CENTER
400 REGENCY PARK, O'FALLON, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLIER FOR INFORMATION

GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

Mark Your Calendars

GREAT RIVER ROUND 2024

- DATE: MARCH 8TH –MARCH 9TH, 2024
- PLACE: PERE MARQUETTE LODGE
- ROUTE 100, GRAFTON, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLIER FOR DETAILS.

GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

41ST ANNUAL ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.

- DATE: MARCH 29TH –MARCH 31ST, 2024
- PLACE: 400 REGENCY PARK, O'FALLON, IL
- 41ST ISCPAA THEME: WRECKED IN THE SAME VESSEL
- SEE ATTACHED FLIER FOR DETAILS.

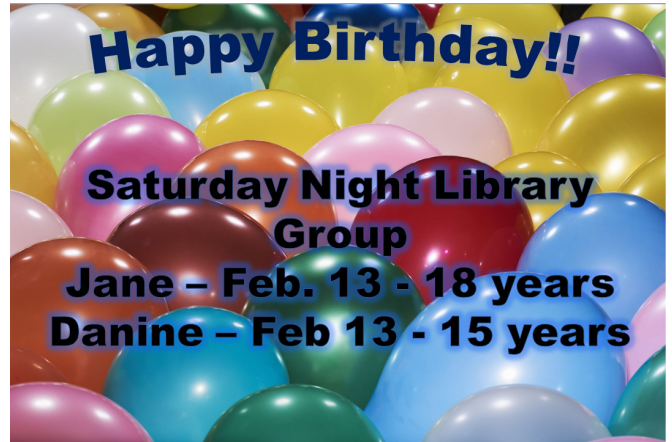
Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place.

Unknown

Forget what hurt you, but never forget what it taught you.

Unknown

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



GRAPEVINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Special note from D-18 GVR: If your home group has extra funds, please discuss during your group conscience whether your group could donate a Grapevine subscription to the Corrections Committee. Members take meetings and literature into correction facilities. It is a small way we can help change lives for the better. Grapevines destined for corrections can be dropped off at the CSO.

If you've thought of subscribing the Grapevine and have been putting it off, please consider subscribing and adding it to your sobriety tool kit. It's basically a meeting in a pocket, easy to carry with you and can provide inspiration when you need it. I've attached subscription forms at the end of this newsletter, and you can even gift a subscription to a friend.

Thank you,
John G. (D-18 GVR)

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 by 2/29/24, 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!

41st ISCYPA Host Committee presents:

GAME SHOW NIGHT



\$10

Suggested Donation

All Illinois
Young People's

OPEN!

Each BID will be Hosting a LIVE
Game Show Style Game for their Booth

DATE: Saturday, February 10, 2024
TIME: Doors @ 6 pm
SPEAKER: Mike P. (St Louis) 7 pm
GAME TIME: 8 pm - 10:30 pm
VENUE: THE REGENCY

430 Regncy Park O'Fallon, Illinois 62269



REGISTER HERE FOR ISCYPA XLI



GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP

www.GreatRiverRoundup.com

PERE MARQUETTE LODGE
MARCH 8TH & 9TH, 2024



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 8TH** **FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2024**
- 1:00PM Roundup Check-In
 - 3:00PM AA Stick Meeting
 - 8PM **AA SPEAKER
TODD S.
PUNTA GORDA, FL**
 - 10:00PM Red Ball Meeting

- 9TH** **SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2024**
- 10AM **AA SPEAKER
COREY B.
MARINE, IL**
 - 1:30PM **AL-ANON SPEAKER
LINDA S.
PUNTA GORDA, FL**
 - 3:30PM Discussion Meeting
 - 6:30PM Banquet
 - 8PM **AA SPEAKER
BOB D.
LAS VEGAS, NV**

“Love and Tolerance”



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

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 1st, 2024. 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 or
Laurie @ 618.623.1955

Sign language interpreter available if requested by 02/01/24.

2024 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 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: _____



Illinois State Conference of
Young People
in Alcoholics Anonymous

2024 REGISTRATION FORM



SCAN ME

Date: March 29 - 31, 2024

Venue: **The Regency**

430 Regency Park O'Fallon, Illinois 62269

To Make Hotel Reservations - Go To: **iscypaa.org**

Click on '**2024 Conference**' \ Click '**To Book A Room**'

ROOM BLOCK CODE: 'CHHIAA'

Name: _____

eMail: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

BID City: _____

Fellowship: AA Al-anon Alateen Friend

Newcomer? Yes No

Are you willing to Outreach in your area? Yes No

Can you Volunteer @ the Conference? Yes No

If Yes - Phone: (____) _____

Can we add to the eMail list? Yes No

Registration Type(s)\Qty(s):

Self _____ Scholarship(s) _____ Bundle(s) _____

Amount Paid: _____

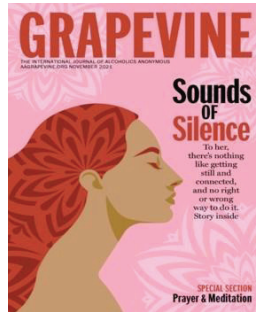
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