

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2024



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- ***District 18 GSR's*** - Please use these links found at <https://aa-district18.org/> under **Important Announcements** for information from G.S.O on, "regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders". Please collect your group conscience on the questions for discussion at the next GSR meeting. 1. [Intro Letter from AA Area Delegate](#). 2. [Questions for Fellowship](#). These documents are attached to this newsletter at the end.

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AA Grapevine Discussion: Drinking & The Family

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 Drinking and Family.

Did you grow up in an alcoholic home? Did (or do) your mom or dad or siblings have an alcohol problem? How did their drinking affect the home? Do any members of your family go to AA? Who got sober first? How did your drinking affect your family? How different is your home today now that you're sober?

Growing up, I never saw my mom or dad drink, as neither were alcoholic. My dad's father, a WWII veteran, was an alcoholic. Everyone on my mom's side could have been to some degree alcoholic. There was always alcohol at funerals. My dad had said he wanted to be there for me as I was growing up because his father was never there for him as he was growing up. So he avoided alcohol. My dad said he tried drinking with his friends when he was young,

continued on page 2

but said he didn't like the effect it had on him. He said he liked to maintain control.

I don't have any cousins on my dad's side as he was an only child. But I have lots of cousins on my mom's side, and they liked to party. So when there was a wedding, funeral, or a family outing, there was a lot of drinking and drugs. It seemed like they could do whatever they wanted to do, with no repercussions. If I did what they did, I would get into trouble. So I developed my closet drinking by trying to hide it from my parents. That worked until it didn't and I'd get caught. After being caught, I had to double my efforts to conceal my drinking. It was a pattern that followed me throughout my life.

I was very popular in my grade school through 3rd grade, then we moved and I went to a new school, where I was the new kid, on the bottom rung. After 2 years, I went to a new school, and was on the bottom rung again. Three years later, I began high school, on the bottom rung again. It was hard to make friends as most of those kids knew each other their whole lives. I often felt like I didn't fit in anywhere. But there were these other kids, who didn't feel like they fit in anywhere either. I found something in common with them, alcohol and drugs. So we all escaped together.

It seemed the only people I had something in common with were the partiers. Life had become one endless party. It is weird that I gravitated to that lifestyle when my parents tried to raise me with their values. I wasn't trying to reject their values, but I wanted to live on both sides of the fence. I was living two different lifestyles. To one crowd, I wanted to appear to be a good guy and a hard worker, someone who could be trusted. And to the other crowd, I partied like there was no tomorrow. I had no values in this crowd and every character defect was in full play. Looking back at it now, I don't know how I did it for so long, but it eventually caught up to me. At the end, there were no party friends around anymore, just me sitting alone, partying by myself. It wasn't fun anymore.

After a series of events starting in 2015 and lasting through July 2019, I found my way to AA. I could not imagine a life without alcohol and I could not imagine that life could get better. But the members in those meetings I kept going to kept telling me to stick around, and things will keep

getting better. Things did get better when I started working the steps with my sponsor. My marriage began to improve, as our relationship grew stronger over time, and trust redeveloped between us. After years of unemployment, I landed a job that I truly enjoy. I did the same job back in my drinking days, but it has a different feel now that I am sober. The same challenges are there, but my reaction to them is different. I truly enjoy seeing what I design come to life. Things that I used to take for granted, I appreciate more. Friendships back then were what I could get out of them and now it's what can I give to them. Today, I feel like I am living with some of the values my parents tried to instill in me growing up. It was AA that helped guide me back to those values that were there all along. It was AA that gave me the opportunity for a new life, one that I don't take for granted anymore.

John G



Tradition 3 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 3.

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 Three: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?

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Tradition 3 (cont'd from pg. 2)

2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Answer to Question 6.

I've always had a problem remembering people's names. It had become worse towards the end of my drinking career, and continued through rehab. So when I came into AA, I often said hi to whom greeted me even if they addressed me by my name, even if I had seen them numerous times before. Someone would tell me their name and 2 minutes later I couldn't remember it. It was embarrassing and frustrating to me to not be able to remember people's name. So I started creating cheat sheets for myself, and that helped remember people's names. But name recognition was just one of the reasons I avoided meeting new people.

I knew I needed to do something about this. Lately, when I saw someone I didn't recognize at a meeting I was attending, I started stepping outside my box and introduce myself to them, simply welcoming them. Sometimes I found they haven't been to an AA meeting in a long time or this was their first meeting. I hope my introduction helped ease their mind, as I know it was helping me somehow.

My home group meeting is a combined meeting, but we don't have many, if any, women attend our 8 AM Saturday meeting. I've seen women come in and sit down in a room full of men. They must have thought it was an all men's meeting and left. I've always felt bad when I saw that happen and I hate to see anyone leave a meeting before it even starts. So a couple of

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INTERESTING DATES IN MARCH AA HISTORY

MAR 21 1881: Anne R., Dr. Bob's wife, is born.

MAR 3 1891: Lois W. is born.

MAR 1940: Bill & Lois visit the Philadelphia AA group.

MAR 1940: Ebby, Bill's boyhood friend & sponsor, is reported sober again.

MAR 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 1940: Pat C. in California gets sober just by reading the Big Book.

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 1941: Boston newspaper reports "any drunk who wants to get well is more than welcome" at the AA meeting at 115 Newbury St. at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

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

MAR 1947: Calix Society was founded in Minneapolis by five recovering Catholic alcoholics, AA members.

MAR 22 1951: 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.

MAR 1984: Clarence S., founder of Cleveland OH AA, died at age 81.

Upcoming Events for March

AREA 21 PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK INFORMATION SESSION

- DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2024
- TIME: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- PLACE: ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 830 8191 0367
- PASSCODE: 1935

GREAT RIVER ROUND 2024

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

“SPEAK AND EAT” - REVIVE GROUP - GRANITE CITY

- DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2024
- TIME: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- PLACE: THRIVE CHURCH
2101 CLEVELAND BLVD, GRANITE CITY, IL
- SPEAKER AT 7:00 PM: AMANDA P.

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 ISCYPAA THEME: WRECKED IN THE SAME VESSEL

Mark Your Calendars

SPEAKER MEETING-N-PIZZA – FRIENDS OF BILL W. GROUP - JERSEYVILLE

- DATE: APRIL 5TH, 2024
- TIME: 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- PLACE: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JERSEYVILLE
1200 S. LIBERTY ST, JERSEYVILLE, IL
- SPEAKER: TYLER H. FROM BELLEVILLE

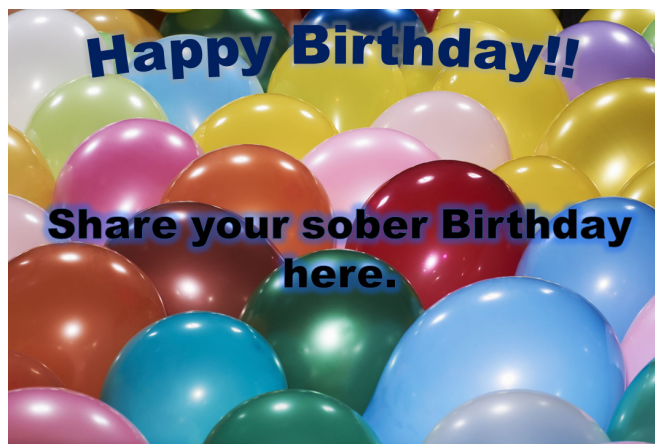
GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
- PASSCODE: 093088

POTLUCK AND SPEAKER MEETING – TUESDAY NIGHT SERENITY GROUP - MARYVILLE

- DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2024
- TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- PLACE: NEW RIVERS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2620 N CENTER ST., MARYVILLE, IL
- BRING YOUR FAVORITE COVER DISH

MARCH 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)

Tradition 3 (cont'd from pg. 3)

weeks ago, our meeting had two women come in at separate times before the meeting started. I went and sat next to them for a moment, introduced myself, welcomed them to our meeting and explained that this was a combined meeting. I told them I wanted them to be comfortable while they were here. They each thanked me for talking to them about our meeting and said they felt more comfortable. During the meeting, both shared on the topic. Funny thing is, I cannot recall their names.

When I attend a meeting, I am there for a reason, to enhance my sobriety. It is just one of the things I need to do to maintain it. I believe everyone who attends a meeting is seeking the same outcome. So I don't care about appearances or their situation. I'm glad that are there. During my drinking years, I was very good at judging people incorrectly. Most of that judging was to inflate my own ego. Today in my sobriety, my ego feels left out, deflated, which is a good thing. But like my alcoholism is always looking for ways to reenter my life and take charge, a supercharged ego will crack the door open and make it easier for alcohol to reappear. I cannot afford to simply chose which work I want to do in AA, as I need to continue to do work in all aspects of my life. I always have to work on accepting others as they are, and as I continue to work on that, my ego stays deflated. The Twelfth Tradition ends with 'ever reminding us to place principles before personalities'. Our founders were wise to include that at the end of the traditions. When someone writes an article, usually the most important part of the article is in the last paragraph, which is the conclusion. 'Principles before personalities', what a nice and important reminder.

JJG

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."
Booker T. Washington

AVAILABLE NOW!

THE NEW GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA APPS!

- Read or listen to every issue
- Search our vast GV/LV Archives
- Keep track of your sobriety and spiritual practices
- Listen to our podcast
- Share AA stories and area events with friends
- Find meetings and connect to aa.org

EASY TO USE!
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GET IT ON **Google Play**

For more information visit:
www.aagrapevine.org/apps

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

Mother Teresa


"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

Amy Poehler

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 3/31/24, 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!



Sponsored by Area 21 (Southern Illinois)

Informational Session

**PLAIN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION
OF THE BIG BOOK**

Presenters

Clint M. Non-Trustee Director, AAWS

Teddy BW. Non-Trustee Director, Grapevine

Sunday March 3rd 3 – 4 pm (CST)

ZOOM

ID: 830-8191-0367 - Password: 1935

One click link below (opens Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83081910367?pwd=Q1RHbTI4bzNDK0hGQ2VHMk9wbmNGUT09>



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: _____



Please Share



SPEAK & EAT



Speaker
Amanda P.

Wednesday March 13,
2101 Cleveland Blvd.
Granite City, IL 62040



Illinois State Conference of
Young People
in Alcoholics Anonymous

2024 REGISTRATION FORM



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: _____

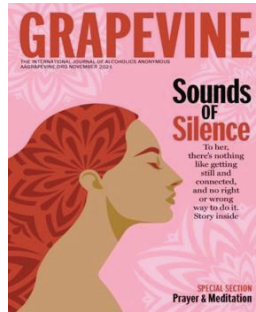
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