

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2024



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- D-18 website – Birthday Submissions page has been updated. Volunteer page is available to those who would like to get involved in service work.



AA Grapevine Discussion: Coincidence or Higher Power?

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 Coincidence or Higher Power.

Have you had any coincidences or Higher Power moments happen to you in AA? Have you run into old friends at meetings? What are some of the most surprising or unexpected things that have happened to you in sobriety?

One of the most surprising things that happened to me was running into my old assistant scout master, Jerry, at my mom's 75th birthday party. I was new in the program at the time. I eventually made it over and talked with him and his wife. It had been a long time since I saw him. I remember him attending our scout meetings with alcohol on his breath, but not drunk. He was a genuinely good man, but seemed to have a drinking problem. After scouts I had not seen him

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Coincidence or Higher Power (cont'd from pg. 1)

in a long time, so it was nice to have a chance to just talk a bit.

A couple of months before running into him, I decided to get an earring with the AA symbol on it. I never had my ears pierced before, but wanted that after seeing a picture of guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughn with his AA earring. I thought it would help remind me of my new purpose when I looked in the mirror. So I don't know if Jerry saw my earring or knew of my situation, but during our conversation, he told me he was friends with Bill W. He said he had 22 years of sobriety. I told him that was great and we proceeded to talk about sobriety and AA for a while. I was really happy to see he found AA and it gave me inspiration. He passed away sober some months later. I was glad to have run into him.

I shared the following at a meeting recently. I just landed a new job after not having one for 5 plus years. One day, a Thursday, I was having a particularly bad day. Mostly due to my own making. So at the end of my work day, I left work mad. I drove home stewing, all the while telling myself that I was not going to a meeting that night. I would have been going to the Bulldogs. When I got home I flopped on the couch, continuing to stew. I told my wife it wasn't her fault, that she did nothing wrong and stewed some more. And then I remembered what I had heard in meetings, when you don't think you need a meeting or don't want to go to a meeting, you probably need a meeting.

So after deliberating a while in my head, I convinced myself to go to the Bulldogs. On my way there, I was telling myself that I am going but I am not going to say anything to anyone. I was just going. When I got there, I found a table no one was sitting at and sat there, by myself. After a few minutes, the chairperson walked up to me and asked me to read How It Works, so I read it to the group. I don't remember what Step the speaker was sharing his experience on, but when they called on me to share, I politely passed. I don't know how or why the chairperson picked me to read How It Works, but when I left the meeting, I was not mad and my attitude was more positive.

I will never forget that meeting. The powerful impact one alcoholic helping another alcoholic can have. I'm sure my face gave me away and the chairman may have picked up on that, but I will leave it to divine intervention, God working though another alcoholic.

John G



Tradition 6 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 6.

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 Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

Answer to #5

My wife's family lives 5 hours to the north in northwestern Illinois. We try to visit as often as we can and it's usually a stay over the weekend or sometimes during week if we are both on vacation. I remember visiting there in early sobriety. First

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Tradition 6 (cont'd from pg. 2)

thing I did was contact their CSO and find out where there meetings were. They told me there was a Friday evening meeting at 5:30 pm, to which I made plans to attend. It was there that I could get a copy of the meeting schedule for the area.

There is only one large city in that district, the rest are small towns, farming communities. It was in that large city that I went to that meeting and the meeting was held in an Alano Club. The club had the most meetings throughout the week so I could always plan on getting to a meeting when time allowed. The small towns usually had one meeting a week.

I remember walking into the Alano Club for the first time. Through the front door stood a partition which blocked the outside view to the inside, so you had to walk around it either to the left or right. Right behind that partition was a pool table with a cover on it. My eyes lit up as I had never seen a pool table in a club before. I loved playing pool, as I majored in pool in junior college, (inside joke). So back then I probably asked a question like, does anyone ever play pool here. I don't recall what the answer was, but all the times I attended meetings there, I never saw anyone playing a game of pool. I never bothered to ask again as I did not go to that club to play pool, I went there to further my sobriety.

I know personally that had I picked up that pool cue, I would not have been focusing on my sobriety. I would have been focusing on winning every game I played, and getting disgusted when I lost. I would have been so absorbed in that game I wouldn't have had time to talk to the AA members there before or after the meeting. I wouldn't have made some new friends outside of my district. I would not have thinking about my sobriety.

A pool table, TV or card room are distractions to me. With my addictive personality, I would not be there for our primary purpose. When I arrive early to a meeting and stay awhile after, I am staying for the fellowship and maybe talk to a fellow member or newcomer about sobriety. Maybe make some new friends.

Having distractions like those could divert a newcomers attention away from what they see leading up to the meeting and after. I liken those types of distractions to a form of bribery. No amount of bribery ever kept me from drinking back in the day and never kept me sober for long.

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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: 1st use of the name "Alcoholics Anonymous."

JUNE 1939: Morgan R. appears on Gabriel Heatter's national radio program. Before the show, Morgan was kept under round-the-clock surveillance to make sure he didn't get drunk.

JUNE 1939: AA work spreads from Towns Hospital to asylums in Greystone NJ & Rockland NY.

JUNE 1939: Lois leaves by bus for Akron OH on her week's vacation to stay with Dr. Bob & Anne & to discover what Bill's excitement is all about.

JUNE 1939: Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick favorably reviews the Big Book.

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

JUNE 1941: Kalamazoo MI AA group is founded with 3 members; a year later there will be 35 sober.

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

JUNE 1945: Cleveland Press reports 2,500 attend 10th AA Anniversary Shindig. Cleveland OH has 44 of 500 AA groups and 1,200 of the nations 20,000 AA'ers.

JUNE 1 1949: Anne S., wife of Dr. Bob, died.

Upcoming Events for June

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 21 ASSEMBLY

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2024
- TIME: REGISTRATION 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
- PLACE: WATSON CIVIC CENTER
103 JACKSON ST., WATSON, IL
- MEETING ID: 889 89494288
PASSCODE: 177777

D18 – AA FUN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NATURE HIKE – ALL ABOUT BATS

- DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2024
- TIME: 7:30PM-9:00 PM
- PLACE: H & B BREMER SANCTUARY
194 BREMER LANE, HILLSBORO, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

TUESDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK STUDY POTLUCK & SPEAKER AT NEW DAY

- DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2024
- TIME: 5:30 PM EAT, 6:00 PM SPEAKER
- PLACE: NEW DAY RECOVERY CLUB
4046 FOREST BLVD., EAST ST. LOUIS, IL
- GROUP WILL PROVIDE PULLED PORK AND CHICKEN WINGS.
- FAMILIES, AND ANYONE ONE IN RECOVERY WELCOME.

SOUTHERN IL YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

- DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2024
- TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
12:00 PM FOOD IS SERVED. 1:00 PM SPEAKER
- PLACE: 623 ALANO CLUB
120 NORTH 3RD STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL
ZOOM:
- MEETING ID: 858 068 6515
PASSWORD: ISCPAA

UNITY CAMPING AND FLOAT TRIP 2024

- DATE: JUN 21ST @3:00 PM – JUN 23RD @5:00PM, 2024
- LOCATION: BLUE SPRINGS RANCH
1246 BLUE SPRINGS ROAD, BOURBON, MO
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

Mark Your Calendars

TROY WELCOME HOME GROUP POTLUCK

- DATE: MONDAY, JULY 29TH, 2024
- TIME: DINNER 6:00 PM, SPEAKER – 7:00 PM
- PLACE: ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH
511 S. MAIN ST., TROY, IL
- SPEAKER: MIKE C. FROM EDWARDSVILLE
- PULLED PORK, LEMONADE AND COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED.
- PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH/DESSERT TO SHARE.
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

Tradition 6 (cont'd from pg. 3)

I kept coming back because I wanted what everyone else had. My hope is that a newcomer keeps coming back because of what we have.

That pool table is still there at the Alano Club, still covered. I see it every time I walk in. While I would love to play a game of pool there, I will be attending to strengthen my sobriety. Besides, I can just go downstairs at my father-in-laws to play a game on that pool table if I wanted to, when I am not attending a meeting.

JJG

OUR PRIME PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE IS TO HELP OTHERS. AND IF YOU CAN'T HELP THEM, AT LEAST DON'T HURT THEM.

DALAI LAMA

Today, I call upon my Higher Power to deliver me from the impossible to the possible; from darkness to light, and from fear to courage.

Bryant McGill

GRAPEVINE SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Grapevine Digital Subscription

	1 MONTH	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
US & CAN	\$2.99	\$29.99	\$49.00	\$69.00
INTL (website)	\$2.99	\$29.99	\$49.00	\$69.00

Grapevine Complete Subscription

	1 MONTH	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
US & CAN	\$6.00	\$56.00	\$98.00	\$130.00
INTL	\$7.00	\$69.00	\$112.00	\$160.00

Grapevine Print Subscription

	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS
US & CAN	\$36.00	\$68.00	\$90.00
INTL	\$49.00	\$92.00	\$120.00

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INTERNACIONAL: 1.570.567.0431

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*All prices are listed in US Dollars and are subject to Canadian or International conversion rates.

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WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

2024 CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT

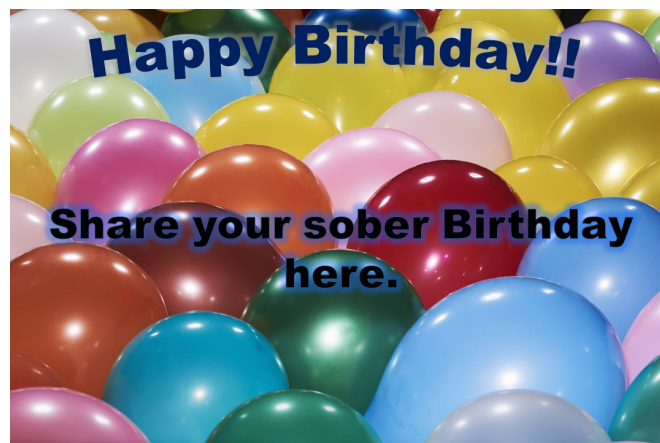
Give a Gift Subscription
to an alcoholic who needs it.
Great for:

- Sponsees • Newcomers
- Prisons • Detoxes
- Doctors' Offices • Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Grapevine & La Viña are Great Twelfth Step Tools!
Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in. Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to aa-grapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new Carry the Message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

JUNE 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 JULY, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter?

Please send any of the above to info@aa-district18.org by 6/30/24, 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!



Nature Hike

All About Bats

Love them or hate them, find out all about them

Friday, June 7th 7:30–9:00pm

**H & B Bremer Sanctuary
194 Bremer Lane Hillsboro, IL**

Donations Welcome!

Presentation by Master Naturalist Ray Luebbert will explore the curious world of bats. Topics to be explored are evolution, echolocation, body structure, myths about bats, hibernation, diseases and much more. Program will include a short hike to listen for bats using a bat locator.

Wear proper footwear and apply bug repellent if needed.

Bring a flashlight.

We'll meet as a group, before the event, in the parking lot.

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





**TUESDAY NIGHT
BIG BOOK STUDY**

**POTLUCK &
SPEAKER MEETING**

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE OR
DESSERT TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE

SPEAKER
CRYSTAL M.



**11
JUN**

EAT AT 5:30PM

SPEAKER AT 6:00PM

GROUP WILL PROVIDE PULLED
PORK AND CHICKEN WINGS



**NEW DAY RECOVERY CLUB
4046 FOREST BLVD.
EAST ST LOUIS, IL**

S O U T H E R N I L L I N O I S I S C Y P A A B I D

SILYPAA

Committee Elections

SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

623 ALANO CLUB
120 NORTH 3RD STREET
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

ZOOM:

MEETING ID: 858 068 6515
PASSWORD: iscypaa

THE ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE OF
YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA IS AN AMAZING
PATHWAY TO SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, AND
RECOVERY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US
AT SILYPAA@GMAIL.COM



DON'T MISS OUT ON A
"SLICE" OF THE ACTION
PIZZA PROVIDED



District 18 AA – Fun Activities Committee

2ND ANNUAL

Unity Camping & Float Trip 2024

June 21, 22, & 23

Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday (Checkout)

Blue Springs Ranch

1246 Blue Springs Road Bourbon, MO 65441

800.333.8007 • www.vacationbsr.com

- All 12 Step Programs Welcome.
- You'll need to book your own camping and floating reservations.
- We will be at the primitive campsites 72–74.

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.
- 18\$ per person, per night, for primitive camping. Other options available. Call them for specifics.
- You'll need to BYO Food, camping gear, etc.
- Bottled water and coffee will be provided.
- Saturday night's meal will also be provided.
- AA fellowship meetings both Friday and Saturday nights. Times TBD.

Floating

- Saturday. Let them know that you'd like to be on the **5 mile, 11am Float Departure**, That's when we'll 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

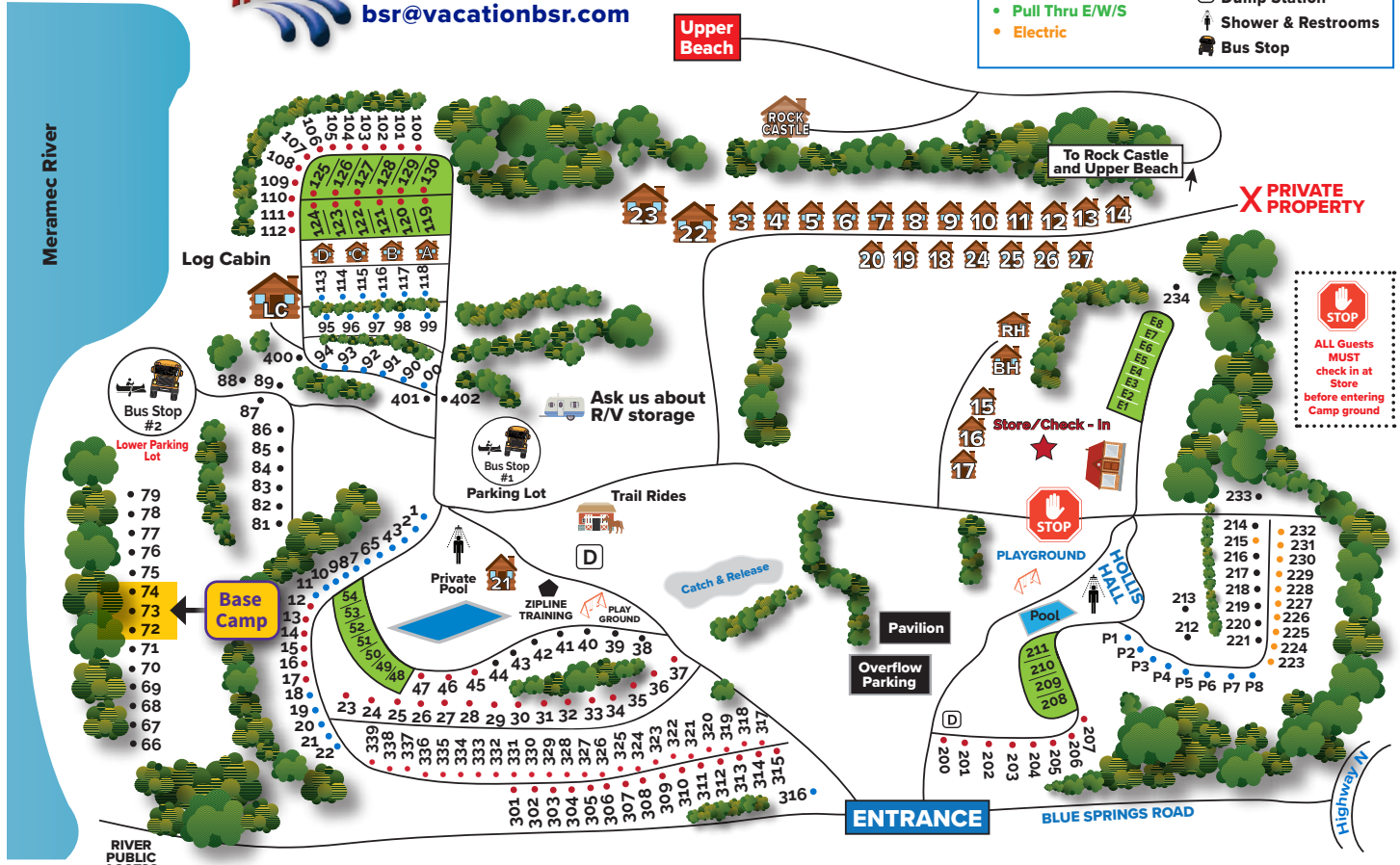
See other side for camp map



District 18 AA – Fun Activities Committee

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

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



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!

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 (72, 73 and 74). Prices have gone up from last year, so you'll need to call for all the specifics.

Floating

Let them know that you'd like to be on the **5 mile, 11am Float Departure**. That's when we'll be floating as a group. You'll need to reserve and rent whatever floating device you'll be floating with, or bring your own.

TROY WELCOME HOME GROUP ANNUAL POTLUCK

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024

St. Jerome Catholic Church
511 S. Main St., Troy, IL
(ADDITIONAL PARKING BEHIND CHURCH)
Dinner 6:00 PM; Speaker 7:00 PM

Speaker: Mike C., Edwardsville

Pulled pork, lemonade, and coffee will be provided.
Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share.
