

AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 9

September 2024



We have some late breaking news for District 18.

- Sept. 7, 2024 - Sat. Night Library Group, St. Mary's, Edwardsville will be ONLINE ONLY. Zoom link online in the meetings page, <https://aa-district18.org/meetings/>
- District 18 is looking for volunteers to help with the Area 21 Assembly, hosted by District 18, Dec. 15th, 2024. There are various shifts available, morning and/or afternoon. Tasks include setting up and cleaning up. Send your info to info@aa-district18.org or plan on attending the Sept. 15th, 2024 Area Assembly Committee Meeting for more information.

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AA Grapevine Discussion: Making Ninth Step Amends

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 September's AA Grapevine issue, and are related to Making Ninth Step Amends.

'Share some ways your drinking affected your family. Have you ever made difficult amends with people in your past? How did they go? Was your sponsor helpful? What are some things that helped? How has sobriety helped repair your relationships?'

While I was out there drinking, I never thought my drinking was affecting my family. I was a closet drinker of liquor and drank beer socially. Looking back, it was hard work controlling my drinking just to keep from crossing the threshold into drunkenness. As long as I could sneak a drink every now and again just to keep myself below the edge, my desire for alcohol was being satisfied. That made it possible for me to give the appearance to others that

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Amends (cont'd from pg. 1)

I was acting normally. Eyebrows of my family and others were never raised in question by my actions. I could nurse a beer or two all night, while supplementing with gulps of liquor in the back room. I thought I had this drinking game figured out and the game went on for many years. That began to change back in 2013, when my drinking crossed the threshold and family and others began to notice. The last few years were very difficult for my wife and family. I found out when I was in AA that she was seeking outside help for herself and how to deal with me.

So the most difficult amends I made were to my wife, mother, sister and brothers. Besides my wife, the others really had no idea how much I had been drinking. Not only was I a closet drinker, I became a shut-in, rarely seeing my family. I'm sure they saw the my physical deterioration when they did see me occasionally. So having to make amends to them was difficult, for all the years of wrongs and admitting I was a closet drinker.

My sponsor helped me organize my thoughts on how to approach my amends to my wife. And in the time leading up to when I going to make the amends, I wanted to not only disclose my wrongs to her, but also tell her every little secret I kept. Those secrets were where I hid my liquor, that I drank a half pint on the way home from work every day, then more after she went to bed, that I drove around in the country for an hour after cutting my mom's grass drinking a half pint, sometime more. I told her when I was supposed to be looking for a job, I was just sitting around all day drinking. She knew I had a second checking account, but she never looked at that. I told her that is where I withdrew money to buy my liquor. I told her of where I stopped to buy my liquor on my way home from work and after cutting mom's grass. I told her that I threw my empties in the trash at the gas station or any other trash bin out there. But before I told her these things, I was doubting whether I should tell her everything, just in case this AA thing didn't work out. I thought I would need something to fall back on. That was alcohol and insanity talking to me. Sanity, common sense and the program of AA prevailed and I disclosed everything. I said when I entered this program that I was going to work each step fully, as completely as I could. I wasn't going to take short cuts.

The amends to my sister and brothers were using the same formula, but the secrets varied between each of them. But full disclosure of my

secrets were absolutely necessary in my mind. I took this program of honesty very seriously. 'How it works' told me that a few times in the first paragraph.

My life had become nothing but deception, not only to myself, but to all those around me, including my wife and family. I desperately wanted to stop drinking and I wanted to change. I had been living two lives for a long time, one being the nice guy who appeared normal and the other drinking behind everyone's back. My years as a Boy Scout in my youth taught me the values of honesty and service, among other values. Now it was time for change, to live up to those values and the principles of AA. It took AA to teach me these principles to live life. I had to have an honest beginning to a new, sober life.

John G



Tradition 9 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 8.

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 Nine: AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?

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Tradition 9 (cont'd from pg. 2)

3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Answer to Question 4

My first position in AA was as my home group GSR. I had heard at other meetings announcements about upcoming GSR meetings, and asked my home group if we had a GSR, to which they replied no. So I volunteered to be our GSR. I went to every GSR meeting thereafter and learned a lot about how AA functioned.

While at the GSR meetings I often heard of open service positions within the district and committee chairpersons asking if anyone would like to join a particular committee. The newsletter chairperson would ask at each meeting if anyone wanted to join the newsletter committee and each time no one raised their hand. I didn't raise my hand because I didn't think I had anything to offer. I didn't know what it meant to volunteer my time to a committee or what would be required of me. But because the question was being asked, I began thinking about the newsletter. Then one meeting the newsletter chairperson asked the same question, and I raised my hand. I began attending the committee meetings for the newsletter. In the meetings we discussed what the topics might be for the upcoming newsletter.

It had been a really long time since I had written anything, I started off with a small article, more like a top ten list one might remember from David Letterman's late night TV show. The article was 'Top 10 List: Reasons I am thankful to be sober this Thanksgiving' followed by an article, 'Reflections on being sober this Thanksgiving'. I came up with another Top 10 List: 'Why Christmas may be different this year' for the Christmas edition. Each newsletter I expanded my writing while learning how to construct articles.

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INTERESTING DATES IN SEPTEMBER AA HISTORY

SEPT 1935: Bill W. returns home from his Akron OH trip & AA begins in NYC.

SEPT 1935: Hank P., the NY group's AA #2, takes his last drink, but after four years of sobriety, he goes back to drinking again.

SEPT 13 1937: Florence R. is the 1st female AA in NY.

SEPT 1938: Bill W. & Hank P. form Works Publishing Co. to raise money to write & publish "Alcoholics Anonymous", our Big Book. Fitz M.'s sister Agnes lends Bill W. & Hank P. \$1,000 to help them get through the Big Book project.

SEPT 1939: The 1st AA group in Chicago IL was founded.

SEPT 1940: Bill W. makes a 12th Step call on Bobbie V., who later replaces Ruth Hock as the NY office secretary.

SEPT 1940: The AA Bulletin found nine "secure" groups in NYC, Washington D.C., Detroit, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Akron & Cleveland.

SEPT 1940: Bill W. makes a 12th Step call on Bobbie V., who later replaces Ruth Hock as the NY office secretary.

SEPT 1943: Tuscon AZ Star reported an AA group with eight men & 3 women.

SEPT 1944: "The Empty Jug" (an early AA newsletter) starts in Chattanooga TN.

SEPT 1949: 1st issue of the AA Grapevine in pocketbook format is published.

SEPT 17 1954: Bill D. (AA #4) dies.

SEPT 1973: AA Archives is established at the GSO in NY.

Upcoming Events for September

SPEAKER MEETING ALTON MONDAY NIGHT

- DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2024
- TIME: 7:30 PM – 9:00 AM
- PLACE: BRIDGE CHURCH ALTON
504 EAST 12TH STREET, ALTON, IL
- SPEAKER: MANDY Y.

SOUTHERN IL AREA 21 ASSEMBLY

- DATE: SEPTEMBER 7TH AND 8TH, 2024
- REGISTRATION: 8AM-9AM
- PLACE: FAMILY CENTER HEAD START BUILDING
233 LEADLEY AVE, EAST PEORIA, IL 61611
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

2024 NATIONAL AA TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

- DATE: SEPT 13TH – 15TH, 2024
- LOCATION: SHERATON WESTPORT CHALET HOTEL
ST. LOUIS, MO 63146
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

AREA ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEETING

- DATE: SEPT 15TH 2024
- TIME: 1:30PM-2:00PM
- LOCATION: CSO
409 BROADWAY UNIT-C-1, SOUTH ROXANA, IL

GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107
PASSCODE: 093088

SOUTHERN IL YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA CARNIVAL

- DATE: SEPT 21ST, 2024
- TIME: 2:00PM – 7:00PM
- LOCATION: 623 ALANO CLUB
120 NORTH 3RD STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

Some Humor

A bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey and cola."
"Why the big pause?" asks the bartender.
The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure; I was born with them."

Mark Your Calendars

ALTON WEDNESDAY NIGHT 70TH ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK

- DATE: OCTOBER 2ND, 2024
- TIME: 6:00PM – 8:00 PM
- LOCATION: ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
E. 3RD ST., ALTON, IL
- 6:00PM - FOOD, 7:00PM - SPEAKER.

DISTRICT 18 ANNUAL PICNIC – FUN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PRESENTS

- DATE: OCTOBER 6TH, 2024
- TIME: 12:00PM – 4:00 PM
- LOCATION: HARTFORD PARK, HARTFORD, IL. TURN
EAST ON 7TH STREET OFF OF HWY 3.
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

26TH ANNUAL ILLINOIS MISSOURI MEN'S AA UNITY BREAKFAST

- DATE: NOVEMBER 3RD, 2024
- TIME: 8:00AM – 11:00AM
- LOCATION: ANDRE'S BANQUET & CATERING
4254 TELEGRAPH ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

Tradition 9 (cont'd from pg. 3)

As I wrote more articles, sometimes members would compliment me for my article they just read. One time, someone told me after a meeting they really liked my article and I had a gift for writing. Not really thinking, I said thank you and proceeded on explaining my whole process to them on how wrote the article. As I was doing this, I saw the life force drain from their face. On my way home, I asked myself what was I doing. The next month, I received a compliment from the same person, and without thinking again, I said thank you and explained my whole process again. I received the same facial response.

On the way home, I couldn't believe I had just done that again. Why couldn't I just say thank you and leave it at that? Well, I learned something from those experiences, some might say the hard way. First, appreciate that someone read the article. Second, someone enjoyed the article. Third, someone went out of their way to offer a compliment to me for the article. Fourth, just say Thank You! If they wanted to know how I came up with such a great article they would have asked me how I did it.

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Tradition 9 (cont'd from pg. 4)

This was a very humbling lesson I learned. I realized that a thank you was not enough, my ego needed more. Through this I learned that service work, no matter what type, is not about boosting my ego, but giving of myself to helping others, regardless of the outcome. When I write these articles, I don't know if anyone will read them, and that is fine with me. I write these so I remember where I was and what I have learned. If someone can relate or get something out of these articles, I am humbled. I am thankful my God has shown me the way to AA, so that I may learn these lessons, one being humility. Thank you for reading. JGG

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INTL	\$7.00	\$69.00	\$112.00	\$160.00
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*All prices are listed in US Dollars and are subject to Canadian or International conversion rates. F-307

Check out Grapevine on YOUTUBE!

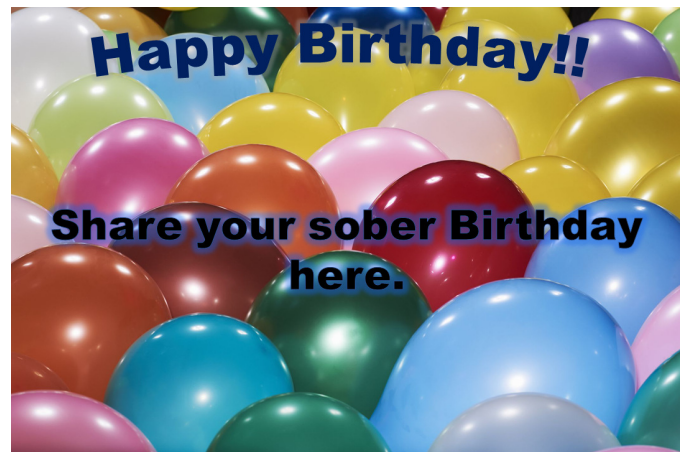
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Watch hundreds of GV & La Vía videos in English and Spanish!

- Listen to our weekly podcast
- Check out our audio playlists
- Watch our helpful app how-to videos
- Hear members share in their own voices
- Find videos to share at AA events

www.youtube.com/aagrapevine

SEPTEMBER 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.

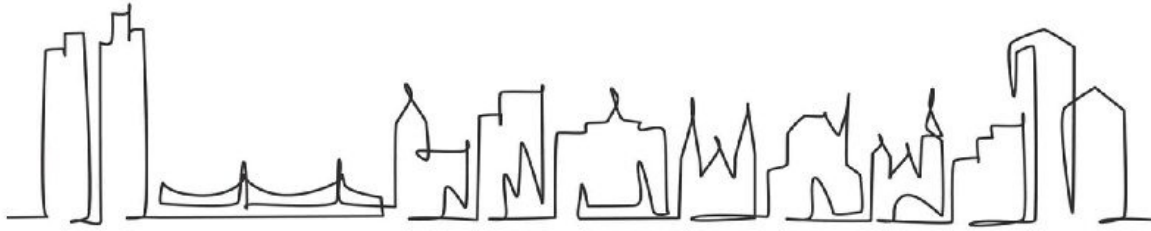
If you've thought of subscribing the Grapevine and have been putting it off, please consider subscribing and adding it to your sobriety tool kit. It's basically a meeting in a pocket, easy to carry with you and can provide inspiration when you need it. I've attached subscription forms at the end of this 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 SEPTEMBER, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to info@aa-district18.org by 9/30/24, 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!

Hosted by District 6



**Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly
Sunday September 8th, 2024**

Family Center Head Start Building
233 Leadley Ave, East Peoria, IL 61611

Registration 8am-9am with Continental Breakfast
Registration \$5 Lunch \$10.00

Lunch buffet will include gondola sandwiches, spaghetti, side dishes, dessert, and beverages.

Accommodations

Quality Inn & Suites
4112 N Brandywine Drive
Peoria, IL 61614

Please call for reservation 309-685-2556

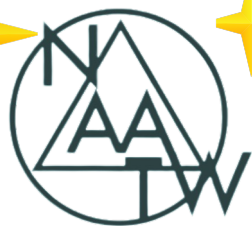
For special rate, indicate "SIA 21" when booking. Please book before September 2nd.

**Pre-Assembly Potluck/Speaker Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 7th**

Hilltop Group, 115 S. Western Ave., West Peoria, IL. 61604
Doors open at 6:00... Eat at 6:30... Speaker at 8 pm



Questions call Dan B. 309-264-0224 or Kevin H. 309-360-1588 or district6peoria@gmail.com



TENTH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL A.A. TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
NAATW in St. Louis, Mo
Sept. 13 - 15, 2024
REGISTRATION OPEN

Help Us Make Our Tenth Birthday in St. Louis MO a Hybrid One!

The National A.A. Technology Workshop celebrates its 10th Anniversary in the city where it all began - St. Louis, MO

✦ We've got a rockin' hotel

✦ We've got a super-skilled bunch of technologists

✦ We've got enthusiastic (and extremely intelligent and witty!) Members, Groups, Districts, Areas, and General Service Office staff eager to learn and share about technology in A.A. today

✦ We've got members from all over the globe wanting to learn how technology can best effectively spread the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic

✦ And, we've got high overhead

✦ To create a hybrid NAATW 2024, we need a LOT of participation.

✦ 130 folks ONLINE, to be exact.

✦ And we need 130 ONLINE Registrants by July 12, 2024.

✦ (Because, you know, *good tech costs money*)

[This is where self-sufficiency and prudence meet, folks]

✦ If we can't hit the 130 Online registrant number by July 12, we'll only meet In-Person and all Online registrations will be refunded

Your strong Online presence will make a Happy Hybrid 10th

So, please, "Meet Us In St. Louis" In-Person & Online

✦ \$100 Registration Fee for Everyone

[REGISTER AT NAATW.ORG](http://NAATW.ORG)

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel

St. Louis, MO 63146

Hotel Block \$149 Prices End Aug. 15, 2024

Phone: 314-878-1500

[Link to Sheraton Westport Reservations](#)

CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

2:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.



623 ALANO CLUB

120 N. 3rd Street Belleville, IL

SPEAKER
PANEL

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

DUNK TANK

PHOTO BOOTH

TIE DYE BOOTH
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT
STARTS 4:00 P.M.

FOOD, CARNIVAL
GAMES, AND SO
MUCH FUN!!!

STEP RIGHT UP TO THE ULTIMATE CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA! INDULGE IN MOUTHWATERING TREATS AND DIVE INTO UNFORGETTABLE GAMES. ENJOY THE THRILL OF THE DUNK TANK, GET COLORFUL WITH TIE DYE, AND SNAP DAZZLING PHOTOS. BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS FOR A CELEBRATION OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. DON'T MISS OUT! COME MAKE MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME!



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District 18 AA – Fun Activities Committee Presents



District 18 AA Annual Picnic

Fun-Food-Fellowship

Hartford Park, IL

Turn east on 7th Street off of Hwy 3.

Sunday, October 6, 2024

12pm~4pm

**We'll provide burgers and dogs, along with water, soda and coffee.
Bring a dish with something in it!**

Speakers start around 2.

Beth M. from Edwardsville and Stan S. from Glen Carbon.

Sobriety countdown, raffle baskets, 50/50 drawing, and more!

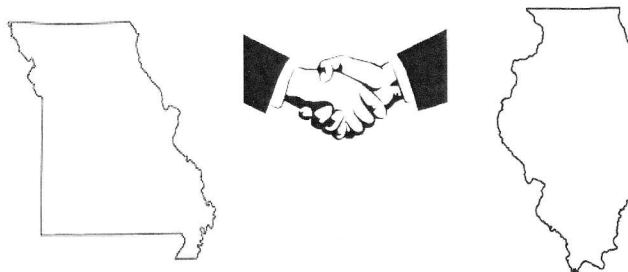
Kickball game before speakers!

Families welcome!

**Have your home-group send a donation, gift certificate
or provide a basket for the raffle!**



26TH Annual Illinois Missouri Men's AA Unity Breakfast



“First Tradition: Personal Recovery Depends Upon AA Unity”
Please join us for the Annual 2024 AA Men's Breakfast

When: Sunday, November 3, 2024

Where: Andre’s Banquets & Catering, 4254 Telegraph Road, St. Louis Mo. 63129

Doors Open: 8:00 am

Breakfast: 9:00 am

Speaker: 10:00 am Chris C.

Tickets: \$30

—>**Reserved seating limited to tables of 8 (\$240) call:** Bill D. @ (314) 971-0251

For General Information call: Bill W. @ (618) 567-5731

No Tickets Sold at The Door!!!! Ticket sales deadline is October 25.

2024 Annual Men's Breakfast – Registration Form

Seating limited to the first 400.

(Complete this form to order tickets by mail!)

Individual tickets may be purchased by filling out the registration form and returning it with payment to
400 Biltmore Dr. Ste. 540 Fenton, Mo. 63026. **Reserved seating is available, TABLES OF 8**, by

contacting **Bill D. (314) 971-0251**

No electronic tickets accepted (paper tickets only)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

OF PEOPLE _____ SCHOLARSHIP DONATION _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Mail Check & Form To:

“AIM Unity Breakfast”
400 Biltmore Dr. Ste 540
Fenton Mo. 63026

Make Checks Payable To: AIM Unity Breakfast

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

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