

# AA District 18 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 11

November 2024

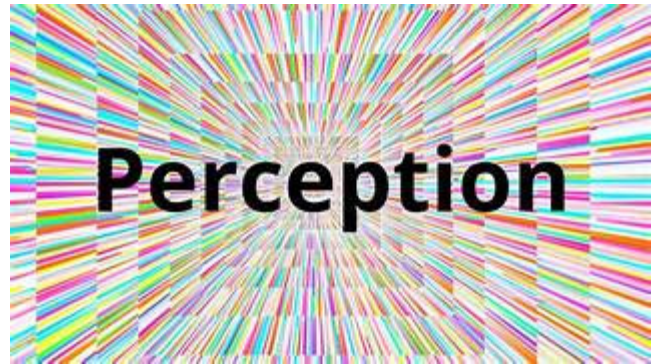


**We have some late breaking news for District 18.**

- District 18 is looking for volunteers to help with the Area 21 Assembly, hosted by District 18, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:info@aa-district18.org) if you would like to be of service.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>1</b>	D18 News, Perception
<b>2</b>	Perception (cont'd) / Tradition 11
<b>3</b>	Tradition 11 (cont'd) / Interesting Dates
<b>4</b>	Events / Some Humor
<b>5</b>	Birthdays / Grapevine Announcement
<b>6</b>	Fliers and such



## **AA Grapevine Discussion: Perceptions**

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 November's AA *Grapevine* issue, and are related to Perceptions.

*'Have you had shifts in perception that changed your sobriety? What have been some turning points in your sober journey?'*

It has been an interesting journey thus far in sobriety, with a balance of positives and negatives. The negatives dominated my early sobriety. The positives were I was sober and feeling better. In the 35+ years of my alcoholism, there were some character defects that were developed and refined for my benefit that carried over into sobriety. After identifying all my defects, and asking my higher power in Step 7 to remove those, some

*continued on page 2*

Perception (cont'd from pg. 1)

were removed. All but the ones I clung to.

I've heard in meetings that my Higher Power will remove all my character defects except the ones I'm still using. That seemed to be true in my case. It wasn't like I was using those all the time, those were bench warmers, called into play when things weren't going good and I needed an EGO boost. It was frustrating to me that I still acted in some ways like the alcoholic I was when actively drinking.

Step 10 suggests I take a personal inventory every day. When I saw repeating defects, I thought I should do something about those. But I didn't. After 5 years of unemployment, I was trying to control where I would work, the type of work I would do, and having found no job, that I turned it over to my Higher Power and said to Him that I will work where ever you want me to. On page 85 of the BB, it says I must carry the vision of God's will into all my activities. "How can I best serve Thee---Thy will (not mine) be done." Just by letting go and letting God, things changed and I found a good job that I liked.

I realized that in order for my Higher Power to remove those remaining defects, I was going to have to trust Him by living the way he wants me to live. The Step 11 chapter of the 12 and 12 has a wonderful prayer. It tells me to live the opposite of negativity, to be a positive light in the world. How do I change my perspective? I became willing to change the way I reacted to things. I had to realize that yelling in the car about someone else's driving only affected me and my serenity. My anger and frustration wasn't going to make them a better driver. My pity parties were not helping anyone, just dragging me down, and maybe someone with me.

My change in perception came in realizing if I wanted those defects removed, I had to become willing to do something about them. I had to recognize my reaction and do the opposite next time, just like the 11<sup>th</sup> Step Prayer says.

John G



## Tradition 11 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 11.

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 Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.**

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around—even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

### Answer to Question #2

In my time coming around the meeting rooms and talking with

*continued on page 3*

*Tradition 11 (cont'd from pg. 2)*

fellow AA's, I've heard a lot of things. Things that we did, what happened to us and how we reacted while we were still out there drinking. Hurting or harming people, DUI's, arrests, prison time, and hospitals to name a few. Some stories are not so traumatic, but insane none the less. These are the experiences of what it took for us to come into the rooms of AA.

In my early sobriety, I used to go to a lot of noon meetings. At a particular meeting, I used to see the same faces at almost every meeting. A few meetings in a row, I noticed one person not showing up. Then a member shared at that meeting what happened to them. They shared something personal with another member outside of a meeting about themselves that only a couple of people outside the program knew. When they shared this with the member in confidence, they thought they were safe. But the gossip mill started thereafter, and a lot of people in AA now knew the story and who said it. The member who shared what had happened to them lost confidence in the program.

Rumors and gossip are just one of the enemies of an alcoholic, or just about anyone else for that matter. But for us alcoholics, it can give an ego boost, and a feeling of power. It can detract us from the message, the message that could help us maintain our own sobriety. It doesn't matter what happened to someone or who said it. The message alone has the power in it.

Since that noon meeting, I am careful to always carry the message, and leave who said it out. Seeing how a breakdown in confidence can damage a member was a real eye opener to the damage we can do to another member when we break anonymity. I can only pray that member made it back into the rooms of AA, or at least is still sober today.

JJG

## INTERESTING DATES IN NOVEMBER AA HISTORY

**Nov 26 1895:** Bill W was born in East Dorset, VT, in his parents' home and business, the Mount Aeolus Inn and Tavern.

**Nov 1934:** Ebby phoned Bill, asked to stop by haven't seen each other 1 year, Ebby sober, 2 nights later Ebby & Bill sat together Bill's Kitchen 182 Clinton Street, Ebby told about himself & Oxford Group, got Bill meeting Old Calvary Church group New York; Bill went 1st time Sam Shoemaker Calvary Church Mission

**Nov 11 1936:** Fitz M. leaves Towns Hospital to become NY area's AA #3, besides Bill W. & Hank P.

**Nov 1939:** NY AA's urge Bill W. to stay on as fellowship leader & not to hunt for a job, despite his money problems.

**Nov 1939:** Cleveland (OH.) Plain Dealer runs 1<sup>st</sup> of a series of articles on AA by Eldrick B. Davis which inaugurates "mass production" sobriety there, soon Cleveland has many more members than anywhere in the country

**Nov 1939:** NY AA's urge Bill W. to stay on as fellowship leader & not to hunt for a job, despite his money problems.

**Nov 1940:** Alcoholic Foundation (which later became GSO) publishes the 1<sup>st</sup> "AA Bulletin"

**Nov 1941:** Fresno (CA.) Bee reports 28 newcomers asked for help in the local AA group's 1<sup>st</sup> week.

**Nov 1943:** Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick is the speaker at the Manhattan AA group's eighth anniversary. He had given AA the 1<sup>st</sup> positive review of the Big Book.

**Nov 1975:** Anne S., wife of Dr. Bob, died.

**Nov 1950:** Dr. Bob Smith AA co-founder, dies.



## Upcoming Events for November

### GREAT RIVER ROUNDUP CHILI COOK-OFF

- DATE: NOVEMBER 16TH, 2024
- TIME: 12:00PM – 4:00 PM
- LOCATION: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BETHALTO  
724 E BETHALTO BLVD, BETHALTO, IL
- SPEAKER – WAYNE N, CLAYTON, MO.
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

### GSR MEETING AND HYBRID

- DATE: SUNDAY, NOV 17TH, 2024
- TIME: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- PLACE: AT CSO AND ON ZOOM
- MEETING ID: 860 0054 3107  
PASSCODE: 093088
- ELECTIONS FOR DISTRICT 18 POSITIONS.

## Mark Your Calendars

### TRIANGLE GROUP POTLUCK & SPEAKER MEETING

- DATE: DEC 12TH, 2024
- TIME: 5:30PM – 8:00PM
- LOCATION: 1<sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH LITCHFIELD  
608 N VAN BUREN STREET, LITCHFIELD, IL
- DOORS OPEN AT: 5:30 PM, DINNER: 6 PM, SPEAKER: 7  
PM
- SPEAKER: WC FROM EDWARDSVILLE

### SOUTHERN IL AREA 21 PRE-ASSEMBLY POTLUCK

- DATE: DEC 14TH, 2024
- TIME: 6:00AM – 8:00PM
- LOCATION: LECLAIRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
1914 ESIC DRIVE, EDWARDSVILLE, IL
- HOSTED BY SATURDAY NIGHT LIBRARY GROUP

### AA ILLINOIS DISTRICT 18 ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE “CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS”

- DATE: DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024
- TIME: 2:00PM – 4:00PM
- LOCATION: CSO  
409 BROADWAY UNIT C-1, SOUTH ROXANA, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

## Mark Your Calendars

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 21 ASSEMBLY

- DATE: DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024
- TIME: 8:00AM – 5:00PM
- LOCATION: EDWARDSVILLE MOOSE LODGE 1561  
7371 MARINE ROAD, EDWARDSVILLE, IL
- SEE ATTACHED FLYER

## Some Humor

### Sooner or later

One day, a man got drunk in a bar and started a fight. The police came and took the drunk to jail. The next day the man went before the judge.

“So, where do you work?” the judge asked him. “Here and there,” the man said. “So what do you do for a living?” asked the judge. “Oh this and that,” the man said.

“Take him away,” the judge told the clerk. “Wait, judge, when will I get out?” the drunk asked. The judge gave him a look and said, “Oh sooner or later.”

—Bob M., Green Valley, Ariz. (Grapevine 11/2014)

### Heavenly coffee

A guy dies and goes to heaven. Upon arrival, he meets Peter at the Golden Gates. Peter asks the fellow, “So, where do you belong?” The gentleman replies, “I don’t know.” Peter says, “Let’s look around and see if we can find where you fit in.”

Peter opens the first door and there are many people kneeling and repeating Hail Mary’s. “Who are they?” the gentleman asks. “Those are the Catholics,” Peter replies. “Hmm ... I don’t belong there,” says the man.

Peter opens up the second door and there are people praying on the ground. “Who are they?” asks the guy. Peter tells him they’re the Muslims. “No,” he repeats, “I don’t belong there either.”

Peter then opens up a third door. Smoke, the smell of coffee and laughter pour out of the room. “Who are they?” asks the man. Peter gives him a look and replies, “I don’t know. They won’t tell me!”

—Debbie M., Bend, Ore. (Grapevine 10/2014)

## 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

#### MAGAZINE AND PRODUCT CUSTOMER SERVICE

EMAIL: [CustomerService@aagrapevine.org](mailto:CustomerService@aagrapevine.org)  
PHONE: 1.800.631.6025 U.S./Canada  
INTERNACIONAL: 1.570.567.0431

*AA Grapevine strives to be self-supporting through the sale of Grapevine items and subscriptions.*

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

F-307

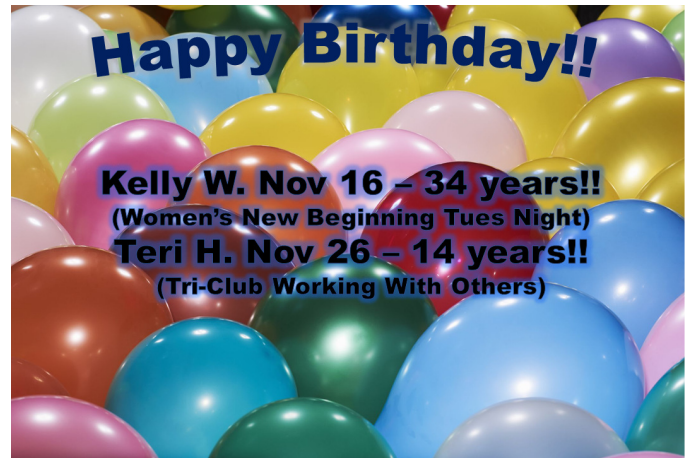
**THE 2024  
AAGRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA  
CATALOG IS NOW  
ONLINE!** Easily browse all of our  
products in one place

For more information visit:  
[www.aagrapevine.org/  
gvr-resources](http://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources)

SCAN HERE

F-306

## NOVEMBER 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 DECEMBER, or are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? Please send any of the above to [info@aa-district18.org](mailto:info@aa-district18.org) by 11/30/24, being mindful of our steps and traditions. Any suggestions or comments are always appreciated and can be sent to [info@aa-district18.org](mailto:info@aa-district18.org).

THANK YOU for subscribing to our newsletter!

The Great River Roundup Committee  
Welcomes You To Our Annual



# Chili

## COOKOFF



**\$5** TO ATTEND

**SPEAKER WAYNE N  
CLAYTON, MO**

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 16TH  
12PM - 4PM**

@FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
724 E BETHALTO DR., BETHALTO, IL

### RAFFLE

50/50 RAFFLE  
BASKET RAFFLE  
\$1 - 1 TICKET  
\$5 - 6 TICKETS



### CALLING ALL CHEFS!

We need you and your top secret chili recipe. Volunteer to a contestant and prove your culinary skills!

To sign up and compete, contact:  
Lauree H. @ 618.623-1955 or  
Shawna A. @ 618-722-2850



Babysitter provided from 1-3pm

Coffee & Water provided  
Please bring a dessert!

All proceeds benefit the Great River Roundup



# **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

## **AREA 21 ASSEMBLY**

### **Hosted by District 18**

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Edwardsville Moose Lodge  
7371 Marine Rd, Edwardsville, IL**

### **Pre-Assembly Potluck Meeting**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Food and doors open at 6p**

**Meeting at 7p**

**Leclaire Christian Church  
1914 Esic Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025**

**Hosted by Saturday Night Library  
Group**

### **REGISTRATION**

**From 8a-9a, \$5**

### **ASSEMBLY**

**Begins at 9a**

### **LUNCH**

**\$12 for all you can  
eat chicken dinner  
buffet**

### **ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 889**

**89494288**

**Passcode: 177777**

### **LODGING**

**Country Hearth Inn  
and Suites**

**1013 Plummer Dr,  
Edwardsville, IL  
62025**

**Please call (618)**

**656-7829 for**

**special rate of  
\$107+tax**





# the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas for Kids Holiday Event

**Saturday,  
December  
14th  
2:00~4:00 pm**

**Central Service  
Office (CSO)**  
409 Broadway Unit C-1  
South Roxana,  
IL 62084

- Toy gift-bags for the kids!
- Get your picture taken with Santa.
- Craft booth!
- Hot Cocoa and more!

**Bring a  
Dessert or  
candy to  
share**

**Families,  
and anyone in  
recovery are  
welcome!**

## **FYI**

**The Activities Committee is a self-supported group. We are not given a budget from AA District 18.** Please have your home-group donate to this year's Christmas for Kids Holiday Event before Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Be sure it's marked for the Activities Committee.

**Toys are being purchased for kids!**



# AA GRAPEVINE, Inc.

## Grapevine Print Subscription Order Form



**One year (12 issues) \$36.00**  
(International US\$49.00)

**Two years (24 issues) \$68.00**  
(International US\$92.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment method

Check / Money Order US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MasterCard Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV/CID: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Grapevine, PO Box 2516, Williamsport, PA 17703  
Phone: (800) 631-6025 (US & Canada) (570) 567-0431 (Intl.)  
Fax: (570) 322-2063  
Online orders: [www.aagrapevine.org/store](http://www.aagrapevine.org/store)

# **AA**GRAPEVINE, Inc.

## Multiple Print Subscription Order Form (US & Canada)



### GRAPEVINE PAYER'S INFORMATION COVER SHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment method

Check / Money Order US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA                       MasterCard

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_/ \_\_\_\_      CVV/CID: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Grapevine, PO Box 2516, Williamsport, PA 17703 Phone: (800) 631-6025  
(US & Canada) (570) 567-0431 (Intl.)  
Fax: (570) 322-2063  
Online orders: [www.aagrapevine.org/store](http://www.aagrapevine.org/store)

# GRAPEVINE MULTIPLE SUBSCRIPTION FORM - ONE PAYER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] 1 YEAR: \$36.00 [ ] 2 YEARS: \$68.00

**IMPORTANT: Please fill out and attach a separate PAYER'S INFORMATION COVER SHEET**