
DISTRICT 11

CONFIDENTIAL

December 07~
January 08

INTO ACTION

THE GREATEST GIFT *by Bill W.*

THE GREATEST GIFT that can come to anybody is a spiritual awakening. Without doubt this would be the certain verdict of every well-recovered alcoholic in AA's entire fellowship. So, then, what is this "spiritual awakening" this "transforming experience"? How can we receive it and what does it do?

Dr. Carl Jung talking to Rowland Hazard....

"Yes," replied the doctor, "there is. Exceptions to cases such as yours have been occurring since early times. Here and there, once in a while, alcoholics have had what are called vital spiritual experiences. To me these occurrences are phenomena. *They appear to be in the nature of huge emotional displacements and rearrangements. Ideas, emotions, and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of the lives of these men are suddenly cast to one side, and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate them.* (Big Book Page 27- highlights added by Ed.)

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps...(Big Book Page 60)

To begin with, a spiritual awakening is our means of finding sobriety. And to us of AA sobriety means life itself. We know that a spiritual experience is the key to survival from alcoholism and that for most of us it is the only key. We must awake or we die.

So we do awake, and we are sober. Then what? Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? Again, the voice of AA speaks up. No, sobriety is only a bare beginning, it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. And if it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life--the one that did not work--for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever. (Continued on page)

Greatest Gift (Continued from the front page)

Regardless of worldly success or failure, regardless of pain or joy, regardless of sickness or health or even of death itself, a new life of endless possibilities can be lived if we are willing to continue our awakening.

Soon after he entered AA, a certain newcomer approached me and he said, "I'm sober and it's mighty near a miracle. I admitted that I was licked, came to a few meetings, began to get honest with myself and my sponsor. Then that awful urge for a drink suddenly left me. There's been no more booze fighting; the desire for alcohol has simply evaporated and I can't yet understand just why or just how. Here in AA the folks are wonderful. They care and they understand. It's a brand new world to me.

"But," continued Mr. Newcomer, "I'm still plumb puzzled. I don't see just how this God-business fits into practical living. And when they talk about a 'new life for an old one,' I can't take it all in. Sure enough I'm sober, and that's new. But now that I've gone ex-grog, what's the matter with trying to live my old life? That was okay, until the liquor got me. I was going places, on the way to make my pile. Things weren't too bad at home, either, until the little woman yelled she'd had enough of me, and left. All I need is sobriety, and AA can keep on giving me that. Now I can go about my business. I'm sure I can make a better job of it this time."

Four years later, I ran across that same "newcomer." "Well Joe," said I, "Have you made your pile yet, and did your wife come back?" With a half-smile, Joe looked at me steadily and replied, "No, Bill, nothing of the kind happened. For a whole year I had the devil of a time. How I stayed sober was more of a miracle than getting sober in the first place. I had to make that pile and get her back or else I was going to be miserable. And miserable I certainly was. But little by little, I woke up to the possibility that God hadn't put me on earth for the express purpose of getting all the money, prestige, and romance that I could lay my hands on.

I finally had to face the fact that I would have to settle for less, a lot less. And if I couldn't accept this. I'd probably get drunk again.

"So I quit giving lip service to AA's Serenity Prayer and really began to use it. Over and over I kept saying, 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.'

"As I slowly learned acceptance, my pain subsided. I began to wake up and look around. I began to see that my modest job was a means of living, and of serving society. The bigger and the better job could no longer be my chief aim. Then I looked at AA. What had I done for the fellowship that had saved my life? Mighty little, I had to confess. So I began to go to meetings with a very different attitude. I quit my envy of financially well-heeled AAs and listened closely to what they said. I learned that their money was no longer a symbol of prestige; it was a trust for the best use to which it could be put. They also showed me that the temptations of riches could sometimes be worse than the pains of poverty. I also found that there was no such thing as an 'unfortunate' AA-- that is, if he were a real member. If sick, he was, by fine example, an inspiration to those both sick and well. If poor in pocket, he could often be rich in spirit, an eager worker and servant of our society.

"So I began to understand 'the kind of giving that has no price tag on it.' I threw myself into AA; I joined a church, and threw myself into it. I really began to 'carry the message.' The last three years have been the best in my life. This is because I have really tried to awaken and to grow, and God has helped me to do just that.

"I now see that awakening and growing is something that never need stop and that growing pains are never to be feared, provided I am willing to learn the truth about myself from them.

"The other day an old time AA gave me an example which I'll never forget. Jack is a real old timer. In fact, he started AA in my town.

(Continued on back page)



Soberfest Revisited

Thank You to everyone who attended Soberfest making it a great success and one of the best times in my sobriety.

The 18th Annual McHenry Soberfest 2007, A Daily Reprieve, was a huge success. Held November 16, 17, & 18th at the Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva Wisconsin, everyone on the Soberfest committee did a great job and worked very hard as a team to host one of the best conferences ever.

This year's Soberfest sat over 1400 people for the banquet dinner Saturday night; and there were over 2200 guests registered this year. Some of this years high lights included Al-Anon Friday night speaker Juanita from Santa Fe NM; Friday night AA speaker Janice D. from Denver Co.; Saturday morning speaker from South Portland ME Lillie H.; Saturday afternoon Al-anon Speaker Craig from Omaha NE and Alateen Speaker Autumn T..

Father Sherry gave a moving invocation Saturday night and started off a great dinner of Chicken, Beef and a great Chocolate Roll cake for dessert. Our Saturday night speaker was Sterling H. also from Omaha NE. (Sterling is probably the friendliest guy I have ever met). Our final speaker for the weekend was Rick C. from Muscatine IA, closing the conference Sunday morning.

We continued to have the Water Park party on Friday and this year introduced Friday night Karaoke, both these events were a huge success. Literature and Grapevine; Archives; Alcathons; Al-anonathons; "Every Step Of The Way" Step Study and NIA Corrections Workshops; and the District 11 Hosted Skit all experienced great participation and high traffic.

Soberfest 19 will be held at the Grand Geneva November 20th 21st and 22nd, 2008. ***The 2008 Soberfest Committee Elections will be held on January 9 at 7:30 PM at Home State Bank in McHenry.** For more information Please contact Bryan Lange at 847-533-9184

In Service,
Bryan Lange
Chairman-
18th Annual McHenry
Soberfest-2007

Editors note:

***The committee for the 2008 event will begin forming on January 9th at the Home State Bank, McHenry at 7:30 PM for the AA committee.**

*The bank is located at 4401 Prime Parkway, McHenry, the corner of Route 31 & Prime Parkway, just south of Northern Illinois Medical Center on Route 31.

**One old-timer said that most Fear Inventories can be reduced down to this in the end:
being alone> emotional pain> drinking> dying> the unknown> no God**

- I fear being **alone** because it's **painful**.
 - I fear sitting in **pain** , if I do long enough, I'll **drink again**.
 - I fear **drinking**, for me to drink again is to **die**.
 - I fear **dying** because it's **unknown** what that means..
 - I fear **the unknown** because I question the existence of **God**.
 - I fear there is **no God** so I trust self-reliance even though **self-reliance repeatedly fails**.
- All fears are in the future*All Resentments in the past.**



DISTRICT BEAT

District 11 G.S.R. Meetings Are Held On 1st Thursday of the Month at the First United Methodist Church, 236 W. Crystal Lake Avenue; Northeast Corner of Dole & Crystal Lake Avenue in Crystal Lake

District Meeting 7:30 PM

Committee Meeting(s) 7:00 PM, (or TBA)

All are welcome. Get involved, join a committee, voice your groups opinion, spread the word, carry the message back to your group and get involved with a committee to carry the AA message to the alcoholic that is still suffering. Out of over 150 registered meetings in District 11, less than 30 G.S.R.'s have been attending the District Meeting. Was someone there for you?

Are your IN or AROUND A.A.?

Public Information, Corrections, Grapevine, Hospitals and Treatment, INTOACTION Newsletter, Answering Service, Archives, Workshops, LCM....

A G.S.R. Creed

"We are General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God expressed in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience; we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us therefore have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole. "

Another 20 Questions (for recovering alcoholics)

- 1 Do you find more time for work these days?
- 2 Has your home life become happier?
- 3 Do you find that you are less shy with other people?
- 4 Is the fact that you are not now drinking affecting your reputation?
- 5 Are you waking up in the morning without guilt or remorse?
- 6 Are your financial difficulties becoming easier to manage?
- 7 Do you turn to sober companions and a superior environment?
- 8 Are you now more concerned with your family's welfare?
- 9 Has your ambition increased?
- 10 Do you have a craving to pray and meditate at a definite time daily?
- 11 Do you feel gratitude when you wake up in the morning?
- 12 Do you sleep better?
- 13 Is your efficiency increasing?
- 14 Is not-drinking affecting you in your job or business?
- 15 Do you deal with your troubles and worries head-on?
- 16 Do you find it easier to live with yourself?
- 17 Is your memory improving?
- 18 Has your doctor recently commented on improvement in your health?
- 19 Is your self-confidence increasing?
- 20 Have you ever been asked to share your story with others?

If you have answered YES to one of the questions, you just may be a recovering alcoholic. *If you have answered YES to two or more, it is probable you are a recovering alcoholic. *If you have answered YES to three or more, you are definitely are recovering alcoholic.

INTOAction: District 11's Newsletter

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DISTRICT 11's WEB SITE:

<http://www.dist11-aa-nia.org/>

****SCHEDULE INFO CHANGES MUST GO THROUGH DISTRICT 11'S SECRETARY***

INTOACTION Editorial Policy

INTOACTION News is a bimonthly newsletter of District 11; NIA 20 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is about, by and for the Members of the Fellowship of AA.

Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by AA. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Submissions are edited for space and clarity ONLY. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

What Is ISCYPAA?

The "Illinois State Conference of Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous" SEE BOTTOM ATTRACTION
(*ISCYPAA= International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous*)

ISCYPAA is an annual Alcoholics Anonymous conference held in the state of Illinois. It is an event for any and all members of AA, and is organized primarily by young, recovering alcoholics.

We define young as "room to grow".

**PRESENTED BY 2008 CRYSTAL LAKE ISCYPAA HOST COM-
Proceeds benefit ISCYPAA 2008**

Bowling Extravaganza

Sun. December 9, 2007

Noon – 5pm

**Westlane Family Bowl
211 N. Virginia St.
(Route 14)**

(Near the Intersection of 176 & Rt. 14)

Crystal Lake, IL

!Space is Limited!

Visit: ISCYPAA.ORG

More Info and Pre-registration:

Rachael 847-220-3333

\$15.00/person
*Includes 3 Games
Plus Free Shoe
Rental & Bumper
Bowling when
requested.*



CRYSTAL LAKE HOST COMMITTEE PRESENTS

ISCYPAA 2008

"We Have to Live It"

Feb. 22nd - 24th

**Holiday Inn & Suites Northwest
495 Airport Rd.*Elgin, IL 60123**

(Room Cost \$71.00/Night)

For Reservations Call 1-847-488-9000 or 800-972-2494. Mention 2008 ISCYPAA.

Please Note: All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Guests must be 21 to reserve a room. Ages 20 and below must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older. All guests paying cash must present ID, as well as pay a room deposit of \$25 per day for incidentals. All Prices are the Same for AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen.



Pre-Registration (By 12/31/07) \$10.00

Registration (After 01/01/08) \$20.00

Banquet (By 12/31/07) \$25.00

Banquet (After 01/01/08) \$30.00

Sunday Morning Breakfast - \$10.00

Make Checks Payable to 2008 Crystal Lake ISCYPAA

Mail Registration To: Crystal Lake ISCYPAA

P.O. Box 1111

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

DCM

Rotating-Out...



Hello Everybody, my name is Rich Healless, and I am an Alcoholic. For the last two years I have been fortunate to have been the DCM here in District 11.

On Thursday, December 6th, I will Chair my last business meeting in that position as I will pass this position on, in the SPIRIT OF ROTATION, one of AA's great Traditions. When we just think we're getting a grip on it, it's time to turn it over and try something new. I am sitting here this morning trying to come up with the words to describe what this experience has done for me in the last two years.

Ah yes, I have just returned from a prayer and the coffee pot. I have told many of you this has taken me somewhere much different for me. It can be so much easier to be on the second line, and follow in the footsteps of those you feel assured of. This has pushed me to take a STEP forward, and do some things out of my comfort zone. But of course as we know when we do for others in AA, the rewards are great. It is difficult for me to be organized, but I guess through many years of practice, appear to be something I am not. I can have fears because of not being sure the direction I point may not be the correct way to go. But at times that can be the great motivator to jump up and be the best you can be. I haven't been the best at doing this job, some things looking back now I would have done differently, but I have done it in

my character, not trying to do it as I feel others would expect. With that in mind I have no regrets.

There have been some Great individuals that have done this before me. I have been fortunate to have been around long enough to know a lot of them. With that I know that there is some longstanding AA tradition here in McHenry County and I hope we all remember that and carry that on.

To do so the AA Service Structure has to be respected and remain in tact. If we were just a bunch of pockets of AA meetings doing as we see fit, we would fall, as others in the past have.

Not drinking and sharing it with another is not new. Keeping it pure, and doing what has been done for over 70 years is the only way to insure that this program will be here for our generations to follow.

Get involved – Get a Home Group – Get a job in your Home Group – Become a GSR or elect a GSR that will be involved, meaning going to monthly District Meetings and quarterly Area Assemblies. If the voice of your Group is not being heard at these meetings or you are not aware what happens there, you fail.

Check out the Officers and Standing Committee Positions- DCM, Treasurer, Secretary, Answering Service, Co-operation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, Public Information, Hospital and Treatment.

Pick one that looks interesting and GET INVOLVED.

I have gotten to know many of you as I never did. Some were just some of the many friendly faces we meet on the way, and now I know and respect you in many different ways. I get excited being around people in Recovery. I hope that never changes.

Well that's enough words for me.

As a dear friend says – I LOVE YOU ALL AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

Rich H.
District 11
DCM, 2006-2008

(Continued on the next page)

Elected DCM In Coming...



Greetings to my fellow alcoholics!

The purpose of this letter is to introduce myself to those who don't already know me, as I will soon begin service as the DCM for District 11. My name is Dan, and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is July 20, 1991. I have lived in Woodstock since August of 2000. I grew up in central Wisconsin, moving there from Rockford in the summer of my sixth year on God's green earth. I am a teacher by trade, something I would have never done had it not been for the gift of sobriety. I was an over-educated cook and dedicated drunk before coming to AA. Sometime I still wish I were a cook, but I sure don't miss the drinking episodes. Alcoholics Anonymous changed my life just as it changes all of us who sincerely try to live according to the principals of the program of recovery outlined in the 12 steps. If you are new to AA – stick around and get involved. If you have been around AA for awhile – get involved. If you are involved – thank you! We all need to be involved with AA in order to live in the solution.

District 11 has a strong tradition of service, fellowship, and financial self-support. For those who might not already know, District 11 is consistently one of the top two financial contributors to Northern Illinois Area among districts in Area 20. The District 11 answering service is without question the very best in all of Area 20.

People call us because their local service has no

information for them. This really does happen. There are 149 meetings listed in the District 11 meeting directory. Can you imagine attending 149 meetings in one week? You could almost do it right here in District 11. That is the level of involvement we have in recovery. We have people taking literature and meetings to jails, hospitals, and treatment centers. We carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This newsletter gets published every two months as a means of communication within the Fellowship. In it you can find news of many AA events designed to enrich our lives in sobriety. Attend these events and meet people who celebrate their sobriety, and strengthen their sobriety by working with others.

The District 11 business meeting is held on the first Thursday of every month (7:30 PM) at the First Methodist Church in Crystal Lake (NE corner of Dole & Crystal Lake Avenue). Consider this an open invitation to come and get involved in service within your District.

If the meetings you attend don't have a Group Service Representative (GSR), ask if you can serve. If you don't know your group's GSR, ask about it. You don't have to be a GSR to attend the District 11 meeting. Although the District meeting is designed for 2-way communication with the groups through their GSR's, it is also a way for AA members to get involved with service. Remember, the Big Book says (and I paraphrase) that nothing so much insures against the first drink more than working with another alcoholic. So come to the District 11 meeting, and ask about corrections, hospital & treatment, Grapevine, public information, Bridge the Gap or answering service. These are just some of the committees designed to help carry the message – you can be a part of the solution in a big way. Please come, get involved, and stay sober by working with others. For it is by giving that we truly receive. God bless you and yours. Have a happy, joyous, and free holiday season!

Dan Michel
District 11
DCM Elect
2008-2010

(Continued on the next page)

Monthly Meeting Minutes for District 11 November 1st, 2007

(Editors Note: Dates and times contained in the following are a reflection from the minutes taken on November 1st, not the date of this publication.)

Meeting Time: 7:30 P.M.
Attendance: 52
Committee Members: 19
Groups Represented: 32

Anniversaries: Brady C. 1 yr: David G. 13 yrs:
Kevin B. 1 yr: Steve D. 2yrs:
Grace V. : 6yrs

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ANNIVERSERIES!!!

Secretary's Report *Patti D.*: No Report



Treasurer's Report

Rich R.:
Beginning Balance \$4,608.21
Expenses 690.03 \$
Assets \$1,751.05
Ending Balance \$5,669.23

Old Business:

- Revisit motion to start Bridge the Gap Committee, vote passes and elections were initiated, unfortunately the persons interested were not in attendance this month. **Elections tabled till December.**

- Elections for remaining positions held; Results:

Hospital & Treatment:

No one nominated, tabled till

December;

Please keep this position in mind when considering service work!

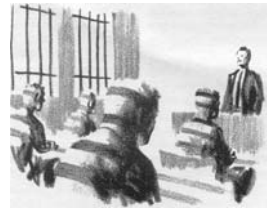
Secretary: Dan S. stands for position and is elected.

Alt. Secretary: Rachael G. nominated and elected.

New Business: None

Public Information *Andrew David W.:*

- NIA 20 began an event to supply big books to entire area with the help of the Districts. PI will contact libraries in our district to see how many books are needed



Corrections *Maureen O.:*

- Had committee mtg, where Rich H. (DCM) brought literature & information
- Received handbook from District DCM
- Corrections is in need of Daily Reflections

Hospital & Treatment *Carol H.:*

- One BTG (Bridge the Gap) group met at Family Services in McHenry on Sat 10/13. It meets every 6wks consisting of Bill e. and his vast amount of volunteers
- Similar groups meet at Centegra Chemical Dependency on South St. in Woodstock, which meet once on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm and on the last Friday of the month at 10am. These groups are in need of a few people who are willing to attend regularly and act as the contact person for that facility. Please call Carol H. for more info (815.477.8262)

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R_x continue..

- Contact was made between Area 19 and 20 to join forces to coordinate requests for BTG between the 2 areas. The first task is to do a presentation to the Chapman Center in Highland Park about BTG to share benefits of the program in helping their clients make that connection with the outside world of AA.



**DISTRICT 11 AA
TELEPHONE NUMBER
24 HOURS - 7 DAYS A WEEK
815-455-3311**

Answering Service *Jim M.:*

- Data for October. (120 calls total): 72 info (18 out of D11), 1 Open Mtg info, 15 hang-ups, 5 need help, 5 Alanon, 5 Refused callback, 12 Solicitors, 2 Spanish info, 2 Wrong numbers, 1 needed ride, 0 about Interventions,
- Call time: 0-10min=69, 11-20min=14, 21-30min=2, over 30min=4 (pager problems)

Newsletter *David G.:*

- **Up-dated by Editor: Deadline for next "Into Action" is January 20th, 2008.** All willing to share their experience, strength, and hope please email to soulsurgery@comcast.net or TimB95@aol.com.

Current newsletter available at
<http://www.dist11-aa-nia.org>

- Attempts to contact Tim about meeting info/new schedules was to no avail and it was decided to print schedules on our own and to get working on it immediately
- Frank S. (Webmaster & PI) volunteered to pull together all the info LCM, Secretary, & Registrar, including info from the District on mtg changes, in order to print schedules as up to date as possible
- Deadline is 11/10 for all mtg changes from District
- Motion made and passed to print 5000 copies

Archives: *Steve G.*

- D11 archive will be on display at Soberfest
- Committee is reserving a date with Wauconda VFW this month for the Old Timers Brunch

Grapevine: No Report

COMING SOON !
“Old-Timers Brunch”

Special Needs: No Report

LCM Report: *Russ M.:*

- 6 meetings were updated this month
- **Please update any meetings with changes from the excel sheet the Secretary sent out to the District. You can send changes to pdalton82@sbcglobal.net and rtmobes@yahoo.com**

Workshop Report *Craig C.:*

- In discussion of Sponsorship Workshop
- Dan M. (Alt DCM) has all info and scripts for Soberfest skit, please contact him for info or to be involved

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Webmaster Report *Frank S.:*

- Added more links to AA related reference section & requested link to NIA website
- If you'd like an email account for your committee (so you don't have to use your personal email) call 847.769.8361 or email technical@dist11-aa-nia.org

Upcoming Events:

- East Central Regional Forum, November 9-11, Arlington Heights
- Soberfest, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva WI, 11/16-18
- NIA Winter Assembly, Dec 8th, Huntley Rec Center
- 2008 ISCYPAA Conf. Feb 22-24, Elgin, IL
- 2008 NIA Spring Conf. march 7-9, Lisle, IL

Open Mic:

Rich V.: Annual Thanksgiving Open Mtg, Thursday 10am at Christ of King Church in Wonder Lake

Brady C.: ISCYPAA needs volunteers to host hospitality rooms at conf Feb 22-24

Tom C.: Hospitality rooms at Soberfest still needs hosts

Rachel G.: ISCYPAA has all events posted at ISCYPAA.org (Bowling 12/19, All Chicago Young People's Conf 12/19, and registration flyers also available)

Frank G.: Open speaker mtg Friday 11/30 at 7:30pm at 1st United Methodist in McHenry

Rich R.: Wanted to make everyone aware that votes on money made by NIA are going through that all GSRs might not agree with. The only way to effect these votes is to attend assemblies!

Bradon L.: Design for Living mtg is at Glacier Park Conf Ctr the first mtg of the month and at the Johnsburg Community Ctr the next 3 wks of the month.

Mark J.: ISCYPAA is hosting an Alcathon at the CLAC for Thanksgiving, Wednesday 10PM till midnight Thanksgiving day

DCM Report *Rich H.:*

- DCM & Alt attended Area committee Mtg on 10/20 where they talked about what's happening in D11 and set agenda for the 12/8th Assembly we're hosting in Huntley
- Volunteers are needed to help NIA20 PI committee wrap and ship Big Books on 11/23 in Rockford

District 11 Hosting

NIA Winter Assembly December 8, @HUNTLEY PARK DISTRICT REC CENTER 12015 MILL STREET HUNTLEY, IL 60142

Registration at 8 AM
Meeting starts at 9 AM

Take Interstate 90 to Hwy 47 north to Huntley. Turn left on Mill Street to Huntley Park District Recreation Ctr.

District 11 hosting

For special needs contact Marcia S. - NIA Special Needs Coordinator 2 weeks prior to the assembly at 815-923-2773 or specialneeds@nia-aa.org



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Alt. DCM Report Dan M.:

- Made flyers available for Winter Assembly. It has all chairs set in place & working with their committees.
- Bids have been received for food and a budget created 11/4 at host mtg
- Skits chosen for Soberfest and has copies for volunteers

*****Up-dated by Editor: The next District meeting will be held on January 3rd, 2008 at 7:30*****

Respectfully Submitted Patti Dalton Recording Secretary pdalton82@sbcglobal.net

Heard Around The Tables

District 11's Wisdom and Witticisms

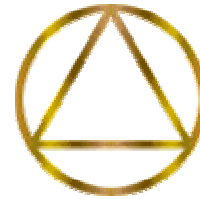
- Thank God I woke up this morning and didn't come too.
- The biggest difference between me and God is, He doesn't walk around thinkin' He is ME!
- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- Instead of grumbling because of we don't get what we pray for, let's be thankful we don't get what we deserve.
- It's a pity we can't forget our troubles the same way we forget our blessings.
- When I admit that I'm an alcoholic, people ask me if I go to AA meetings . . . they never ask me if I live by the Twelve Steps!"
- The Monkey is off my back but the Circus is still in town.

A "good day" is when everything goes my way, and I stay sober.

A "great day" is when nothing goes my way, and I still stay sober.

An "awesome day" is when God uses a drunk like me to help someone else stay sober!

"Dr. Bob would explain prayer by telling how the camels in a caravan would kneel down in the evening, and the men would unload their burdens. In the morning, they would kneel down again, and the men would put the burdens back on. 'It's the same with prayer,' (Dr Bob & TGOT P. 229)

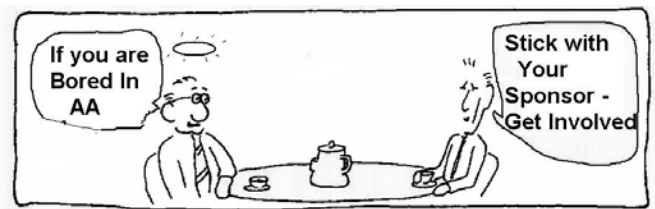


Design For Living Group Meetings,

Held at 7: PM on Wednesdays ~
December 12, 19, & 26
will be held at the

Johnsburg Community Club
2315 Church St.
Johnsburg, IL.

January 2008, Wednesdays at 7 PM, the meetings will return to the McHenry Township Hall, as usual.



Big Book Study

Bob D. – Las Vegas, NV
Rick C. – Muscatine, IA

Sunday Dec. 30,
Doors Open: 8 AM
Workshop: 9 AM – 6 PM
McHenry Township Hall
3703 Richmond Rd.
McHenry, IL

Coffee, Donuts and Lunch Provided
(Donations Accepted)

Info: Joe H. – 815-728-1281 or Ray S. 847-812-4084

Greatest Gift (continued from page 2)

I used to envy him because he was a millionaire.

"They told me he was in our local hospital, deathly sick, and about to die. In a way, I hated to go there, it would be so sad. When I walked into the room it was filled with AAs all in a gay mood. They were gay because Jack was gay. He was telling funny drinking stories, now and then wiping away the blood that ran down his chin from a cancerous mouth. He sat upright, his legs and bare feet hanging from the edge of the bed. A nurse came in, demonstrating, begging him to lie down. Waving her away, he said, 'If I lie down flat on this bed, I might die now. And that would be too bad, because I want to go to our AA State Convention next week.'

"We saw that this was no bravado; he really meant it.

"A little later Jack again spoke of death. He said that he'd had a wonderful life. Whiskey had brought him great pain but, as a result, AA had given him great joy. With his 'awakening' in AA had come the utter conviction, indeed the sure knowledge, that 'in my Father's House there are many Mansions.' Everybody there could to Jack, death was but a fresh awakening. He never did get to the AA convention.

"But Jack knew, and we know, that this didn't really matter for Jack was in full possession of 'the greatest gift of all.'"

Bill W.

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WINNERS & BEGINNERS**ANNIVERSARY PARTY****SATURDAY – JANUARY 26TH****MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

25225 W. IVANHOE RD.*WAUCONDA, IL.

Fellowship and Dinner @ 6:00 PM

OPEN AA MEETING & SPEAKER @ 7:00 PM

SPEAKER: Joe Z. from Camarillo, CA

Contacts: Chuck T – 224-628-3261

Matt S. 815-814-1266

December 31st,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR****FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,**
(Hosted by an AA Group)**SPEAKER 7:30 PM**
BOB D.-LAS VEGAS, NV**DANCE TO FOLLOW**
SPEAKER**MCHENRY TOWNSHIP**
(not the senior center)
3703 RICHMOND RD.
MCHENRY, IL**DOORS OPEN AT 6: PM****BRING A NEWCOMER**
BRING A DISH TO PASS
INFO: JOE H. – 815-728-1281**A SOBBER NEW YEARS EVE**