

Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly September 2004

Editor's Note: The Loners and Internationalists Meeting (LIM) is a newsletter and mail group for AA members who cannot regularly make meetings, whether because of geographical isolation (Loners), poor health (Homers), or seagoing careers (Internationalists). LIM also includes members who serve as Port Contacts, who welcome Internationalists to their port city; and Loner Sponsors, who correspond with other LIM members about the meetings they go to. If you know of an AA member that can benefit from contact with LIM, contact the Service Office or the General Service Office in New York for more information.

From Across the Sea

My name is Jim and I'm an alcoholic. I'm a grateful member of the Cumbelnauld Thursday Night Recovery Group, and I'm also a member of the "Loners". I received your publication the other day from a friend in LIM who asked me if I'd write a few thoughts on paper, and this I am glad to do. It has been my experience that God works through people, and people were in place when I came through the doors, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

Through the grace of God and this wonderful Fellowship I have been sober for 11 years. A modern day miracle for me, I can quite assure you of that! I never thought I could stay sober for 11 days, never mind 11 years. I didn't do it - AA and the people in AA did it. When I came here I kept out of pubs and clubs, kept sober company, and went to a lot of meetings. This made me realize that not only was I powerless over booze, but over people, places and things as well. You see I needed more, so I embarked on this wonderful 12 Step Program of Recovery. What a revelation this was to me. I then realized I didn't know, that I didn't know, that I didn't know, and that scared me to death. Somebody told me that you do the Steps, AND THEN you get better. You don't get better and then do the Steps. This was the solution that I'd been looking for all my life, and when I came to the chapter on the Promises I was God-smacked. You see folks, I was amazed before I was halfway through. I could never envision my experience as a performing alcoholic could benefit others, but I found out that was the case. If we don't share then who's to care? I found out my experience was my biggest asset.

When I was on the booze I felt completely redundant. Nobody wanted to listen to a drunk. This obviously brought

on the self-pity and the poor-me's! If I felt miserable I'd go out of my way to make sure everybody else was going to feel that way too. Now by the time I had reached this part of my recovery all of this self-pity and low self-esteem was near enough gone. For the first time for a long time, there was a point to my life. I had realised it wasn't a life I'd had when I was on the booze, but only a horrible existence full of all the negativities possible. In my early days people kept saying to me that things would get better. My question was always the same - WHEN? Now all these things were bit by bit coming back into my life again. Now there was no self-pity. I was far too busy to feel like that. I was in a group, I was the Treasurer, I went to Inter-group as a Roundabout (Scotland's AA magazine) Liaison Officer, I was attending 3 or 4 meetings a week, and I was writing 3-5 letters every day to fellow AA's in LIM! Self-pity? There was no time to feel self-pity. I was far too busy enjoying my life. You see, I'd found out that this life was to be enjoyed not endured. What a big change for this alcoholic.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

For the first time in 30 years I had a direction in my life. I didn't have to be right - it was all right to be wrong. What a feeling that was. I didn't have to be perfect. All I was asked to do was to try my best, trust in God, and follow directions. I've tried to do that, with this open mind we must have, and being able to live in the day, all we have is one day at a time.

All of the promises have come to me, and every year that goes by just keeps getting better and better, thanks to this wonderful Fellowship of ours. Yes indeed, AA works. That has been my experience. I always say Thank God It's Today. I just love being sober.

*Yours in love, friendship and fellowship,
Drummer Jim, of Scotland*

Throughout 2004, we will be featuring articles about the **Twelve Promises** of Alcoholics Anonymous.

How have the promises come true in your life?

Tell us about it! Submit your articles to:

The Pipeline, NH Area Service Office,
1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett NH 03106

or email to the Pipeline's attention to office@nhaa.mv.com

OCTOBER

Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.

NOVEMBER

We will intuitively know how to handle situations that used to baffle us.

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A Publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

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Email the Pipeline at
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Please put "For Pipeline"
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Pipeline

Statement of Purpose

The New Hampshire Area Pipeline will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to New Hampshire A. A. Area 43 as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Pipeline will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Like the A.A. movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics and practice the A.A. principles in all its affairs.

NH Area Assembly Service Office

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Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. - 10AM to 4PM

Saturdays - 10AM to 2PM

Website: www.nhaa.net



Group Information

Meeting Changes

District 8

Penack. Monday 7:30PM - 8:45PM HDCB
Monday Night Big Book
Rolfe Park, temporarily meeting in the park
Moved from Senior Center; looking for new meeting space.

Penack. Wednesday 7:30PM - 8:45PM HSD
Young at Heart Peoples Group
Rolfe Park, temporarily meeting in the park
Moved from Senior Center; looking for new meeting space.

District 11

Plymth. Thursday 7:00PM - 8:00PM S
Covered Bridge PM
St. Matthew's Church Parish Hall, School Street
Time change from 8-9PM

Tilton. Friday 8:00PM - 9:15PM SH
Tilton-Franklin Group
Tilton-Franklin Methodist Church, 400 W. Main St.
Start time changed from 8:15

District 13

Nashua. Tuesday 7:30PM - 9:00PM XBD
Our Great Hope BB Step
United Methodist Church, 154 Main Street
Type change: not Closed

District 19

Keene. Sunday 6:30PM - 8:00PM SBD
Big Book Step Study
CIA, 463 Washington Street
Used to meet at the Keene Copy Bldg. on Marlboro Street.

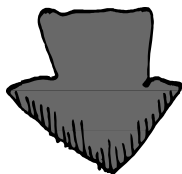
Disbanded Meetings

District 12

Manch. Tuesday 7:30PM - 8:30PM
The Other 23 Hours
Tirrell House, 15-17 Brook Street

Manch. Wednesday 8:15PM - 9:15PM
Lifeboat Group
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Corner Penacook & Pine

Help needed to start a Young Peoples AA meeting in Nashua! We're organizing a peer-lead young peoples meeting for kids/young adults in the Nashua area, beginning late in the fall. Please call Layne B. at 661-8539.



Subscribe to your Pipeline!

We need your help!

We need at least one hundred group subscriptions to make our minimum for bulk mailing, and we've been short. If just one more group in each district ordered, we'd be all set! Already subscribe? How about donating a subscription to a treatment center, halfway house, or correctional facility in your community? Your support is greatly appreciated!

Greetings From Your Service Office

The Grapevine is our International Meeting in print, and many AA members treasure the little magazine. Some of us are introduced to it in early sobriety by our sponsor, or perhaps the Grapevine Rep at a meeting we attend. There are a handful of meetings around the state that even use the Grapevine as the basis of their meeting format!

But did you know that the Grapevine publishes a variety of material related to the magazine? We carry these items right in the office! There are books of Grapevine articles, including *Language of the Heart* (Bill W.'s Grapevine articles collected in one volume); *Spiritual Awakenings* (articles about the spiritual nature of our fellowship); *Thank You For Sharing* (selected letters from the Grapevine's 60-year history); *The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA*; and three different *Best of the Grapevine* volumes. The Grapevine also has collected several articles onto audiocassettes and CDs for your listening pleasure, and the tapes on spirituality and the ones on character defects have proven quite popular. Other items include framable slogans, the Man on Bed print, and the Traditions checklist.

Each year the Grapevine also produces wall calendars and pocket planners, with inspirational quotations culled directly from the magazine itself. The wall calendar features photographs taken by AA members. Both items are discreet and do not mention alcoholism or AA, making them appropriate to hang on the wall in your kitchen or your cubicle, or to carry in your pocket, without risking your anonymity. Calendars are \$7 each and pocket planners are \$4 (a dollar less than last year); they will be available this month at the office. They make excellent raffle prizes or Christmas gifts!

And speaking of newly available items, the new statewide meeting book is hot off the press! Stock up for your group. Accurate meeting information can be the best thing to give the newcomer who comes through your door. Old meeting lists can be donated to the Corrections Committee (they're used when developing release plans for inmates) by dropping them off at the Service Office.

We'd like to thank Doris C., Cynthia R., Dennis R., Jessie R. and Colin R., all of Manchester for their help in the office!

In grateful service, Karen, Mary Anne and Ingrid

Group Number: _____

Group Name: _____

Send to: _____
if for group, please use your GSR for the addressee

Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Send \$6 for each group subscription (10 copies/mo annually) or \$3.50 for each individual subscription (2 copies) to NHA, 1330 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

Donations to Area 43 THANK YOU!

Barrington Group	Barrington
Newfound Lake Group	Bristol
Colebrook Monday Step	Colebrook
Concord Original	Concord
Primary Purpose	Conway
Keep It Simple Beginners	Conway Village
As Bill Sees It	Derry
Beginners Big Book	Derry
Derry Original Group	Derry
Early Evening Serenity	Derry
Sat. Nite Live	Derry
Spacetown	Derry
A Way Of Life 12 & 12	Dover
Dover Original	Dover
Grateful Hearts Group	Dover
Morning Reflections	Dover
Sat. Nite Commitment	Dover
Two Hat Group	Dublin
Farmington 12 & 12	Farmington
Franklin 12 & 12	Franklin
Gilford Sunday Original	Gilford
Keep It In AA	Gonic
Women In Need Of Sobriety	Gonic
Hampstead Angels	Hampstead
Pass It On	Hampton
Jackson Thurs Step	Jackson
Big Book Step Study	Keene
Came To Believe Group	Keene
T.O.A.D. Group	Keene
Women's Group	Keene
Kingston 12&12	Kingston
Women's Stepping Up	Laconia
Primary Purpose Group	Lincoln
Open Discussion	Lisbon
As Bill Sees It	Littleton
Out To Lunch Bunch	Littleton
Courage To Change	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
How To 12 & 12	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Stepping Back To Basics	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
Women's Daytime	Manchester
Womens New Beginnings	Manchester
B&M Freedom Group	Merrimack
Souhegan Sun	Milford
Step 1 2 3 (Disbanded)	Milton
Winnie's Womens Group	Moultonboro
Our Great Hope	Nashua
Remember When Group	Nashua
New Boston Group	New Boston
Tuesday Nite Beginners	New London
Sat AM BB Step Study	Newington
Living Sober Group	North Conway
North Conway Women's Grp.	North Conway
12 Step Group	Peterborough
Happy Hour Group	Peterborough
Our Town Group	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow

Each month in District 9 the DCM answers a question posed by her GSR's. Recently, she submitted the question and her response to the Pipeline:

What is Going on With the Hotline?

When someone calls the hotline, our answering service screens the call. If it is a 12th step call, the answering service takes the caller's phone number and tells them someone will call them back ASAP. Then the answering service calls people on the volunteer list until they talk to a live person. If they get an answering machine, the message they leave is "This is the Area 43 answering service, please call us back at 1-800-593-3330". When they talk to a volunteer, they give her/him the caller's phone number. When the volunteer dials the caller's number, s/he can first dial *67 so that the caller doesn't see the volunteer's phone number. This is a real 12th step call. Hopefully the caller is willing to go to a meeting and the volunteer can help them pick out an appropriate one and help them get there. The volunteer does not have to give the caller a ride to a meeting and the volunteer should never go alone to pick up a caller. There is a flyer around from District 14 which summarizes the Big Book instructions on how to do a 12th step call and lists other helpful phone numbers in case the answering service did not correctly screen the call.

What does all this have to do with money? Well, the hotline used to be a separate entity which charged each district for the service by our usage. District 9, for example, paid \$75/mo and individual groups often made donations directly to the hotline. Now the hotline is part of AA and is responsible to a committee in Area 43. This means that the hotline now has to do what the groups ask since AA is a "bottom up" organization. So our area hotline committee is writing new scripts and plans to do some training with the

answering service (the people who work for the answering service are not necessarily members of AA). Additionally, the hotline committee is trying to cut costs. One way they are doing this is to update the list of volunteers. When the hotline calls volunteers, they often have a lot of trouble reaching someone. We have to pay them for each call they make, so if they've called 20 answering machines or wrong numbers, we pay for all of them. Each district is calling past volunteers to weed out wrong numbers and ask people to specify gender, town, and when they are available which will help reduce these costs.

Last of all, since the hotline is now part of AA, Area 43 is now paying the answering service. These payments come out of the Area 43 general fund. Groups that used to make donations directly to the hotline now write the checks to Area 43 and that is listed as a separate line item on the financial reports. This special earmark is no longer needed since the bill is simply paid for out of the general fund. This process is modeled after many other areas in the country. Now, it is also true that donations to the general fund have been down the last few months and the area is concerned about this. This situation does not necessarily mean the area will not meet its budget since many groups donate bi-annually or sporadically and this is not reflected in the budget. It is always a good idea to make your donations on a regular basis though, so that districts and areas do not have a cash flow problem. With all these changes going on, GSRs have been asked to help their groups review their donation procedures. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tracy K., District 9 DCM

Questions regarding the hotline can be directed to Paul S., Hotline Committee Chair, at 210-1032 or by sending a message to him in care of the Service Office. - Editor

AA Trivia Corner

What is the Man on the Bed?
Who are the men in it, and
what is being depicted?



Information on the Area 43 Group Trip To The 2005 International Convention in Toronto, Canada

If you're going, consider going with us!

Every five years, Alcoholics Anonymous holds an International Convention, attracting over 50,000 AA members (and their families) from all over the world. From June 30 – July 3, 2005, the event will be in Toronto, Canada, and the Area 43 Function Committee will be putting together a group trip to the Convention.

The Committee will be reserving a block of rooms in one hotel, for the nights of June 30, July 1 and July 2. Members booking these rooms will be exempt from the housing lottery. Room rates will be between \$ 150 – 200/night in Canadian funds. Groups that register early will be given priority in hotel selection, so we must act quickly. If you are interested in reserving one of these rooms, please fill out the Function Committee's Toronto Group Accommodations Request. You will need to register for the convention with GSO before filing your room request with Area 43.

We will need your registration confirmation number to process your room request. Please return your Group Accommodations Request to Toronto IC, c/o NH Area Service Office, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett NH 03106, by October 15, 2004.

Those submitting their paperwork after the deadline will not be included in group accommodations and will instead be entered into the general housing lottery.

While many of those who plan on attending will be flying to Toronto – and special airfares will be available – the Function Committee is also arranging to charter a bus (or buses) to make the 10-hour drive. Some people have complained that airfare was cost-prohibitive or that they don't like to fly. Imagine the fun of a bus trip with your AA friends! The cost of the bus will be around \$100 round trip per person, based on full buses. The bus will be leaving early on the morning of Thursday June 30th, and returning very late on the night of Sunday July 3rd, allowing bus riders to participate in all International Convention events. The Toronto Subcommittee is still researching the particulars of the bus trip, but we should have information available to AA members in New Hampshire by the month of October.

A notice for those of you that have a criminal history involving a felony or DWI – Canadian regulations may prohibit you from crossing the border without making prior arrangements. We urge all those interested in attending the 2005 International Convention who have a criminal background to contact the Canadian Consulate now. It is possible for most people – even those with criminal histories – to legally cross the border, but in many cases there is paperwork that must be filed far in advance and fees to be paid. More information is available at the General Service Office through their website – www.aa.org – or by phone – 1-212-870-3400. When submitting your paperwork please mark it clearly that you wish to attend the 2005 International Convention in Toronto June 30 – July 3, and the Canadian government will make every effort to process your paperwork in a timely fashion.

Those who choose to take the bus with Area 43, and who are stopped at the border because they have neglected to do the appropriate paperwork, will need to make their own arrangements to get home.

All who plan on attending, whether as part of the group trip or by making their own travel arrangements, should plan on getting their passports. Passports will speed your border crossing/customs clearance, leaving you to spend more time enjoying your International experience.

Passports will be required for those wishing to be part of the bus trip.

Registration and group accommodations paperwork will be available by September 7 at the Service Office, or at the Area 43 website, www.nhaa.mv.com. You can email your questions (including requests for registration packets) to the Area 43 Toronto subcommittee at nh2toronto2005ic@yahoo.com, or you may call Karen S. at 623-8252, or Diane T. at 647-4469.

The Toronto Subcommittee

**Not much time to spare, but you want
to do meaningful service work?**

*Area 43 is looking for more volunteers for our
expanding PI/CPC service work opportunities.*

*AA members from all districts
needed and welcomed!*

Contact John S. at 668-1096 for details.

Next meeting posted at www.nhaa.net.

AA Trivia Corner

The Man on the Bed is a recreation of an oil painting depicting Bill W. and Dr. Bob 12th-stepping Bill D., the third AA member.