



Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly December 2004

An Environment for Change

We need to become willing to change

from the June 1981 *Grapevine*

When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous, I had been going to Al-Anon for eight months. I was married to a practicing alcoholic, and my drinking didn't seem as bad as his; it took a while for me to see my own problem. The first thing I admitted to was a problem with pills. A week later, I said I was an alcoholic. Two years and six months later—four dry dates later—I accepted my addiction. I didn't get here by being the sweet little housewife and mother I thought I was. I got here by abusing alcohol, tranquilizers, and amphetamines almost to the point of death.

I always believed that if I worked hard and did what I was told, I would be fine. I wanted so desperately to be sweet, kind, patient, loving, intelligent, pretty, and all the things I thought ladies were supposed to be. And I never measured up.

Even after I got sober, I continued to try. I worked the Steps to the best of my ability. I listened at meetings, talked with friends and sponsors. There were still major character defects present, and no matter what I tried, nothing seemed to really work. I was disgusted with myself and extremely frustrated.

One day, I was listening to an AA tape, and I heard an interesting story. The man said, "We don't change." My ears perked up. He said, "Farmers don't grow their crops. They make the soil fertile and plant seeds, and God grows the crops. Physicians don't heal. They create an antiseptic environment,

and God heals. And we don't change. We create an environment in which change can take place, and God changes us."

It sank in slowly. I started realizing that if I could have changed myself, I would have done so a long time ago, and I would now be all those things I thought I should be. I realized all my efforts at changing had been in vain.

I started becoming willing to be changed. Once again, I started working the Steps, this time leaving the results up to God. I began trusting God—I'd had faith before, but not trust. As time went on, I began to get in touch with the God within.

Today, I am a changed person. Fear has begun to leave and is being replaced with trust, love, and courage. My pride, although still there, has lessened. My self-esteem is rising slowly. My self-will is not quite as strong as it once was. God is, in fact, changing me, refining me to be His instrument. To me, there is no greater honor than to be a channel of God. But I can be a channel only to the extent that I allow Him to be in charge.

Allowing the responsibility of changing me to be God's rather than mine has taken a great pressure off me. The more I trust Him, the more I enjoy His work.

Through Him, this program, and the people in it, I am finding life, and that is truly a miracle.

Keep coming back—it works!

We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

J.B. of Corpus Christi, TX

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We hope you enjoyed our series on the Twelve Promises, from pages 84 and 85 of the Big Book.

In 2005, we will focus on the topics regarding **home groups**, to match the 2005 General Conference theme.

Send submissions to froggyk@netscape.com or snail mail to the Service Office, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett NH 03106.

Tell us about your home group, or write to us regarding an upcoming topic:

January

"Welcoming the Newcomer"

February

"How It Works in Our Home Group"

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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

New Groups

District 13
Nashua Friday 7:30PM - 9:00 PM
Young Peoples AA, First Baptist Church, 121 Manchester Street

District 18
Newport M, W, Th, F 7:30AM - 8:30AM HD
Living Sober Group, Episcopal Church, Park St
Now meeting on Wednesdays & Fridays too. Time changed from 7:45.

Meeting Changes

District 12
Manch. Sunday 10:00AM - 11:15AM HS
Sunday Serenity, Elliot Hospital Dining Room, 955 Auburn Street
Group moved from Red Cross Building on North Street.

District 18
Newport Thursday 5:00PM - 6:00PM D
Weekend Comes Early, Millie's Place, John Stark Highway
Name change from Group Unity. Time change from 7:30-8:30pm

District 17
Colebrook Wednesdays 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM X
Step Sisters, United Methodist Church, Bridge Street
Temporarily moved from Baptist Church on Rte 43, through December

District 20
No. Conway Monday 6:30PM - 7:30PM HCX
No. Conway Women's Grp., 1st Church Christ Cong., 2503 Main St (Rte 16)
This meeting is handicap accessible.

District 21
Grafton Monday 7:30PM - 8:30PM HDX
Monday Night Step Grp., Grafton Cong. Church, Rte 4 Grafton Commons
Now a step meeting. Name change from As Bill Sees It.

Disbanded Meetings

District 9
Derry Wednesday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Derry Beginners Group, Marion Cerrish Community Ctr., 39 W. Broadway

Raymond Monday 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Women's Freedom Through Steps, Congregational Church, 1 Church Street

District 10
Plaistow Tuesday 2:30PM - 3:30PM (12PM - 1PM summer)
Plaistow After School, Timberlane High School, 36 Greenough Road

District 12
Manch. Wednesday 7:30PM - 9:00PM
Grateful Acceptance 12 Step, New Horizons, 199 Manchester Street

Manch. Tuesday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
AA Comes of Age, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Crnr Pine & Penacook

District 18
New Ldn. Friday 6:30PM - 7:45PM
Women's Keep It Simple Step, Lake Sunapee Bank, 24 Newport Road



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

Jails, institutions, or death. How often have we heard that drinking leads the alcoholic to these consequences? Yet in AA, we have been granted an unmerited gift and we're able to lead happy, productive lives.

Some alcoholics find AA while sitting in prison. This may be when the guard announces there is an AA meeting and the inmate, sick of staring at the same four walls, decides to check it out. It may happen when he (or she) gets a Big Book or an old Grapevine out of the prison library, and identifies with the stories he reads. Or perhaps he had already gone to AA but returned to drinking, and now is as desperate as only the dying can be.

The General Service Office in New York provides a Corrections Correspondence Service to connect alcoholic inmates to sober AA members for the purpose of sharing about sobriety through the mail. For inmates that are incarcerated in facilities with no AA meetings, this may be the only contact with AA that they have.

This is your chance to step up to the plate! There are far more requests for help than AA members willing to serve. **Currently, there is a 250-man waiting list for inmates wishing to correspond with AA members.** GSO will match correspondents with inmates from other areas, to further protect your anonymity. You need not have a criminal background to participate in this valuable service – the sharing is about alcoholism, and recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you're concerned about providing your home mailing address, you may use the Service Office address, and we'll forward your mail to you. There is a particular need for men to volunteer for this service.

To sign up for corrections correspondence or get more information, call the Service Office at 622-6967, call the General Service Office Corrections Desk at 212-870-3400, or log on to www.aa.org. Corrections Correspondence pamphlets are also available from your DCM.

In literature news, note that the new Victor E Grapevine posters are now available from the Service Office for just \$4 each. This is an excellent tool to promote awareness of our meeting in print.

We'd like to thank Doris C. and Cynthia R. 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 NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

October Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Daily Reflections	Concord
Monday AM Think	Concord
Derry Original Group	Derry
Derry Women's Group	Derry
Early Evening Serenity	Derry
Men's Beginners Group	Derry
Dover Original	Dover
Women In Dignity	Durham
As Bill Sees It	Exeter
Exeter AA	Exeter
Farmington Fri Step Grp	Farmington
Just For Today	Hampton
Pass It On	Hampton
Women's Positive Steps	Hampton
Brown Bag Group	Hanover
Keene Thurs. Night Step	Keene
Women's Group	Keene
Kingston 12&12	Kingston
Thursday Night Original	Laconia
Wed. Night Step Meeting	Lebanon
Primary Purpose Group	Lincoln
Big Book Step Study	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Growing Together	Manchester
How To 12&12	Manchester
Joy Of Living	Manchester
Pathway To Sobriety	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
Melvin Village Group	Melvin Village
Winnie's Womens Group	Moultonboro
Friday Night Group	N. Conway
Early Bird Group	Nashua
New Alternative	Nashua
Our Great Hope	Nashua
Remember When Group	Nashua
Living Hope	Northwood
Weekday Wake-Up	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Tues Night Young People	Portsmouth
Courage To Change	Raymond
Rindge Original Step Mtg	Rindge
Friday Night Beginners	Somersworth
Baigis Group	Tamworth
Quitting Time	Tuftonboro
Living Sober Group	Warren
First Things First	Weare

The Meeting Before the International

You've heard all about it – when your group goes on a commitment, during the drive there you get the meeting before the meeting, and the meeting after the meeting on the way home. That time of informal sharing and group frivolity nurtures the bond with your fellow AA members, and has often been credited with helping newbies through their earliest days. Your Toronto Subcommittee is chartering a bus to offer you the same joy on a larger scale – imagine the fun of joining dozens of your sober friends on the journey to the 2005 International Convention!

Seats are still available and will be about \$100 each, with a \$50 deposit due by February 1st. Forms are available from your DCM; from the Service Office; on the Area website at www.nhaa.net; by calling Karen at 623-8252 or Diane at 647-4469; or via email from NH2Toronto2005IC@yahoo.com.

Whether or not you choose to participate in the group trip, if you plan on attending the International there are certain things you may need to do now to prepare. If you have ever been convicted of a felony or a DWI, you need to contact the Canadian Consulate to determine your eligibility to cross the border. For some (particularly those with only one conviction more than ten years ago)

this will simply mean pre-arranging your border clearance. For those who have multiple or more current offenses (including more than one DWI or DUI conviction) there will be paperwork and fees involved. **To ensure your border crossing, it is imperative that this be undertaken NOW.** This paperwork takes the Canadian government time to process, and cannot be done at the border. Contact the New York branch of the Consulate General of Canada, via email at cngrny-td@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; or at (212) 596-1628.

It is strongly suggested by both Canadian and US immigration officials that you obtain a passport before attempting a border crossing. While not required in general, it will help speed your border crossing. (Passports will be mandatory for those joining the bus trip.)

While the deadline has passed to join in on the Area 43 group hotel reservations, we do hope to announce our hotel in next month's Pipeline. If you missed our deadline, you may still be able to stay in the same hotel by selecting our hotel as your number one choice on your housing form. If you did reserve a room with us, expect a letter by mid-December with your hotel information and instructions on what to do next.

We hope to see you all in Toronto!

From the Area 43 Toronto Subcommittee

I Care – Do You?

There seems to be a lack of concern in District 12 regarding the work that needs to be done for AA to continue to function. I can only attest to what I see. There are those who do as much as they can and sometimes more than they should. Then there are those who come to a meeting and leave without even helping put away a chair. We have a lack of participation at the group and the district levels. It appears that everyone wants meetings but few participate in the tasks that make AA work. This district has on average 8 meetings a day with attendance at these meetings of a huge sober population. Why then can we not find coffee makers, GSRs, or committee members? Even the large number of no-shows for incoming commitments reflects that group members are forgetting the primary purpose of a group.

Our fifth tradition clearly states; *"Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry it's message to the alcoholic who still suffers."* Have we become content letting the buck fall to the

next guy? Is it because we feel we've done our share? Why should we feel complacent in letting some one else pick up the slack?

Yes we all have busy lives with our families, jobs and other activities. **That never stopped us from drinking.** I used to think that I was blessed because I lived in a town with so many meetings but now wonder if too many meetings on the same days are counterproductive. In the places where you have 2 or 3 meetings a week they seem to guard and protect this gift. The members do what ever it takes to maintain that gift.

I was introduced to the district by my sponsor, as I now introduce the ones I sponsor. My hope is they will do the same down the line. I have a responsibility to the program that has **saved my life.** What is the price I put on my life? Do I hope someone else will save it? Let's all refocus, stand up and be counted on to do our share.

Dan P. of District 12

AA Trivia Corner

Where and when did AA start
in New Hampshire?



District 13 - NASHUA

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

FROM: Noon Friday Dec. 24th

TO: 9 pm Saturday Dec. 25th

Spartans Hall - 73 E. Hollis St.

(between McDonald's and Jiffy Lube)

Dinner: 6 - 8 pm Christmas Eve

Breakfast: 7:30 - 9:30 am Christmas Day

For rides on Dec 24th and 25th call 889-2760

District 12 - MANCHESTER

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

6 pm Christmas Eve thru

6 pm Christmas Day

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

111 Island Pond Rd (off Huse Rd)

NEW YEAR'S DINNER DANCE

New Year's Eve, 6 pm - 1 am

1st United Methodist Church, 961 Valley St.

Prime Rib Dinner

\$20 per ticket, \$25 at the door

Info for either event or dinner dance tickets call Bryan B. 429-9497

District 8 - CONCORD AREA

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

6 am - 8 pm Christmas Day

Knights of Columbus, 50 Bradley St., Concord

NEW YEAR'S DINNER DANCE

6 pm to 12 am New Year's Eve

Bow Community Building (Fire Station)

Knox & Logging Hill Roads, Bow

Potluck supper, Al-Anon participation, \$8

Info for both - Dana 783-0370 or Ellen 229-1778

District 11 - LACONIA

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

7 pm Christmas Eve Thru

7 pm Christmas Day

Congregational Church, Depot Square,

Questions? Call Sue 527-0160

District 7 - PETERBOROUGH

HOLIDAY ALCATHONS

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Monadnock Hospital, 6 pm - 1 am



District 9 - DERRY

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

Friendship Center, 45 E. Broadway

6 pm Christmas Eve thru

6pm Christmas Day

Food and meetings around the clock



AA Holiday Event Listing



Alcathons are AA events involving marathon meetings, often right through the night. Other AA holiday events, such as dinners or dances, often involve an admission charge to help cover the costs. All events are also open to friends and families of AA members. If you're looking for information not listed here, please call the Service Office at 623-8252, the Hotline at 1-800-593-3330, or visit the Area 43 website at www.nhaa.net. You never need to be alone again!

ALCATHONS ARE FREE!

District 10 - SALEM

NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON

6 pm New Year's Eve thru

Noon New Year's Day

Ste. Julie's Hall behind

St. Joseph's Church

Main St. (Route 97)

Info - call Jim 553-3829

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

6:30 pm - 12:30 am

United Methodist Church

Pleasant St.

Italian Meal - bring desert

\$10 (\$5 for dance only)

Info - call Rosemary (978) 372-8896

District 17 - LITTLETON

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

St. Rose of Lima Church

High Street

5:30 pm to Midnight

Coffee, Potluck supper at 6:30,

Speaker Meeting, and Dance

District 14 - PORTSMOUTH

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

Meadowbrook Inn

Portsmouth Traffic Circle

Christmas Eve 6 pm thru

Christmas Day Midnight

NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON

Meadowbrook Inn

Portsmouth Traffic Circle

New Year's Eve 6 pm thru

New Year's Day Midnight

NEW YEAR'S DINNER DANCE

Frank Jones Center

(across from Meadowbrook Inn)

coffee, dinner, speaker, dance

6 pm - Midnight

\$30 for dinner

all are welcome after dinner (8 pm)

info for all events - Serina at 848-3991

District 15 - DOVER

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON

12/24 6 pm - 12/25 9pm 12/31 6 pm - 1/1 6 pm

Triangle Club, 120 Broadway Street

AA Trivia Corner

The first known AA meeting in New Hampshire was a private gathering in a lawyer's office in Portsmouth. AA's first official New Hampshire group was Manchester Original, which began meeting in August of 1946. By 1949 there were 12 groups around New Hampshire, from Keene to Portsmouth, Nashua to North Conway. Today, there are over 600 meetings in our state.