



Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly January 2005

Applebee's

or, A Drunk Remembers a Kind Gesture

I remember being dropped off behind Applebee's with a sleeping bag and about \$50 in my pocket. It was January and the temperature hadn't gone above the freezing mark in a week or two. At night it was in the double digits below zero with the wind chill. A good friend in the program who thought I might freeze to death pointed this out to me. I slept with my bottles of Colt 45 in my sleeping bag to keep them from freezing. All day I would make a couple of trips into the convenience store to refill my supply and then head back out into the small patch of woods to continue my drinking.

Sometimes to break up the monotony I would take a small walk to a different area and drink there. I was always striving for total oblivion. After 4 or 5 days of this I managed to walk down to the AA meeting at St. Raphael's and met a friend who took pity on me, handed me \$75 and told me to get a room for the night. I walked back to the store picked up 4 bottles of Colt 45 and I was back out in the woods. I remember that night in particular because it was probably the coldest. The wind was howling and I had to stay in the sleeping bag to drink.

It would be impossible to convey every thought that went through my head in those 2 weeks but there were many. The overwhelming thought was hopelessness.

I finally checked into the shelter after the money ran out and within 2 months was back on my own again living in a room on Bridge St. It would be another year before I surrendered.

Dave S., of Manchester

I Need to Welcome the Newcomer

My clearest memory of my first Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on the outside is how scared I was that you people would see through me and see what a terrible person I was. But you welcomed me like I was family.

Immediately people held their hand out to me, and there was usually a phone number in it. "Call me if you need a ride to a meeting," people would tell me. They would travel from another town to get me to a meeting. Then they would introduce me around the group, just so I wouldn't feel out of place, or alone in the crowd. They'd even bring me out for coffee afterwards, for the "meeting after the meeting". That's when I'd get the basic tools. "Just stay sober today". "Know where and when your next meeting is". "Wake up saying, I'm not going to drink today". "Get three phone numbers from each meeting, and call one of them each day." And so on.

Today I need to remember what people did for me when I came in to these rooms, and I need to do the same for every newcomer I see.

I need to write my phone number in an Area meeting list and pass it around for others to do the same. I need to hand it to him and say, "Look, my number's in here. If you have any questions, feel free to call. I don't care what time it is, as long as you call *before* you drink. I need to let him know "Hey, I'm going to such and such meeting tomorrow, how about riding with me. So what if he lives on the other side of town. How far did I go to drink?"

I need to remember...When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. And for that, I am responsible.

Jay B., of Laconia

*Welcoming
the
Newcomer*

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.

February

"How It Works in Our Home Group"

March

*"Concept One:
Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority"*

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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"
in subject line.

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 12
Manch. Friday 7:00PM - 8:15PM XD
Women's We Care with Hope, 1st Cong. Church, Union & Hanover Streets

District 13
Nashua Saturday 3:00PM - 4:30PM SD
Nashua Sat. Young People's, Salvation Army Annex, 1 Montgomery Ave.
This is in addition to the new Friday Young People's Meeting.

Meeting Changes

District 10
Pelham Wednesday 7:00PM - 8:30PM CXD 1
2 Step Womens Meeting, Pelham Congregational Church, Main Street
Group moved from St Patrick's Club House.

District 15
Farmington Tuesday 7:45PM - 8:45PM DCX
Farmington 12 & 12 Group, Community Center - Town Hall, So Main Street
Time change from 7:30pm.

Northwd. Saturday 7:30PM - 9:00PM HCB*
Sat. Big Book Meeting, Northwood Congregational Church, Route 4
Added Al-Anon nearby to meeting type.

District 16
Wolfeboro Friday 8:00PM - 9:00PM HDB
Fri Nite Big Book, All Saints Episcopal Church, So. Main St. (Rte 28)
Was Friday Nighter's Discussion; now Big Book format.

District 17
Colebrook Wednesdays 6:30PM - 7:30PM X
Step Sisters, Baptist Church, Route 43
Had been temporarily meeting at the United Methodist Church.

Disbanded Meetings

District 7
New Ips. Thursday 7:30PM - 8:45PM
Little Group That Could, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 200 Ashby Road

District 8
Penacook Monday 7:30PM - 8:45PM
Monday Night Big Book Group, Rolfe Park

District 13
Milford Sunday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Milford Women's Group, Episcopal Church of our Savior, Amherst Street

Nashua Monday 6:30PM - 7:30PM
Grupo Esperanza Hispana, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main Street



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

For many of us when we first came to AA, our biggest concern about "anonymity" was pronunciation - we were scared that we might be asked to read one of those traditions with *that word* in it. But how many of us understood the meaning of anonymity, or its importance to AA?

Some groups introduce the newcomer to the concept of anonymity by incorporating a brief statement into their secretary's report or in the opening of the meeting. Discussion groups sometimes choose anonymity as a meeting topic. Others simply ask members to remember anonymity before their closing prayer.

We offer an Anonymity Card for groups to display at their meetings. This simple tent card says on both sides, "*Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Please respect this and treat in confidence who you see and what you hear.*" Some groups put one up on the chairman's table, and others put several up around their meeting hall. Anonymity cards are big enough to read from a distance and are usually for sale at the Service Office for just 25 cents each. This month your group can request one of these cards for free! Just call us at 622-6967, and we will be happy to mail you a sample.

We have begun work on the next statewide meeting list. Do you know of a new meeting, one that stopped meeting, or of other group changes? Let us know! The meeting list is only as accurate as you help us make it.

We'd like to thank Al S. of Franklin for candy and paper towels; Cynthia R. of Manchester for helping with collating and stuffing envelopes; and a little girl from Derry for filling our candy dish.

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!

November Donations THANK YOU!

Barrington Group	Barrington
Basic 12 Step	Bedford
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Berlin Group	Berlin
Charlestown Group	Charlestown
Sat Men's 12 Step Group	Concord
Come As You Are	Ctr Conway
As Bill Sees It	Derry
Derry Original Group	Derry
Spacetown	Derry
Sat. Nite Commitment	Dover
Fresh Beginners Group	Durham
Living By The Book	Epping
Exeter AA	Exeter
Hampstead Angels	Hampstead
Saturday Nite Original	Hampstead
Just For Today	Hampton
The Lunch Bunch	Hampton
Keep Coming Back	Henniker
One Day At A Time	Hopkinton
Get It Together Group	Hudson
Men's Step Meeting	Jaffrey
Big Book Step Study	Keene
Keene Original	Keene
T.O.A.D. Group	Keene
What's Good About Today	Kittery
Saturday Night Live	Lebanon
Sunday Big Book	Lebanon
First Light Of Day	Manchester
North End Group	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
Merrimack Step	Merrimack
Milford No-Name Group	Milford
Souhegan Sun	Milford
Early Bird Group	Nashua
Tuesday Nite Beginners	New London
Pelham Big Book	Pelham
Saturday Nite Live	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Get Well Group	Plymouth
12 & 12 BYOB	Portsmouth
Back To Basics	Portsmouth
Faith Group	Portsmouth
High Nooners	Portsmouth
Sunday Morning Daybreak	Portsmouth
Genesis 12 Step Group	Salem
Salem Sat. Morning AA	Salem
Stratham Big Book	Stratham
Suncook Common Ground	Suncook
Wolfeboro Group	Wolfeboro
Noontime Group	Wolfeboro Falls



We Need Your Help to Spread the Word (and fill our bus!)

Many New Hampshire AA members haven't heard about the Area 43 bus trip to the International Convention in Toronto this summer. Please help us get the word out! Mention the trip during announcements at your home group, or even read this article at the meeting.

About sixty people expressed interest in the bus trip when the Function Committee originally floated the idea, but at press time only half that had actually made deposits on their seats. If you plan on going with us and have paid your deposit, we thank you for your support. If you have not yet paid, please be aware that our deadline is approaching! Either way, note that it is in everyone's best interest to increase the number of participants in the trip – our cost is based on reserving the bus, and the more people who board the less each of us will have to pay for our seats. Without more participants (and we're sure you're out there!) the cost of each seat would be \$175. We're still hoping to keep the ticket price in the \$100 range, and your participation could help us reach our goal.

Perhaps alcoholic procrastination is an issue, but please remember that your early reservations ensure that the committee can afford to place a deposit with the bus company.

We will be departing New Hampshire early on the morning of Thursday June 30 and returning late July 3. Participants will be in Toronto for all significant Convention events! We are planning multiple pick-up points around the state, so you need not travel far to catch the bus. Enjoy the fellowship of AA friends on your journey.

Two sign-up sheets have been mailed with the January Pipeline to each AA group in New Hampshire. You can also get forms from your DCM, the Service Office, on the Area website at www.nhaa.net, via email from NH2Toronto2005IC@yahoo.com, or by calling Karen at 623-8252 or Diane at 647-4469. We'll be happy to answer any of your questions. A \$50 deposit for each seat is due by February 1st.

The other part of the committee's plan involved reserving a block of rooms in one hotel. This deadline has already passed. For those who opted into the group housing reservations, we are pleased to announce that we will be staying at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel. Amenities include an indoor pool, an on-site restaurant and free shuttlebus transportation to and from the major convention sites in downtown Toronto. (For those of you flying in, there is also a free airport shuttle.) If you missed our group deadline, you can still make the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel your first choice on your housing selection form. You may still find yourself staying in the same hotel as your New Hampshire friends!

Thank you for helping us to get the word out!

The Toronto Subcommittee

AA Trivia Corner

When and where did the first institutional AA group form?

Bridging the Gap - One Way to Help the Newcomer

Sign Up to Be a Bridging the Gap Contact

Alcoholics Anonymous in New Hampshire (Area 43) provides a "Bridging The Gap" program to help alcoholics in Correctional & Treatment Facilities who are interested in recovery. Basically, it introduces individuals to Alcoholics Anonymous on the outside. Keep in mind that this is basic 12th Step/5th Tradition work.

You need not have any previous experience with Correctional or Treatment Facilities. Your qualifications are your experiences as an alcoholic and your recovery in A.A. The intent is to provide help to the alcoholic "Bridging The Gap" (BTG). As the program name suggests, it is for a limited time. You are not being asked to permanently sponsor the inmate/patient. That is their/your choice. We suggest that you read the A.A. pamphlet: "Bridging The Gap...Between Treatment and A.A. Through Temporary Contact Programs" and the guidelines found in this pamphlet. If you are interested in becoming an outside volunteer temporary contact person, complete the form and mail it to the address indicated, or write your name on one of the sign up sheets.

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!!! Under no circumstances will it ever be given to the patient or inmate with whom we put you in contact... that's your choice. The Bridging the Gap Coordinator will call YOU when a patient or inmate is being released. YOU will be given information about THEM.

Matching is based primarily on gender; geographical location and age are considered, but are not limiting. You are always contacted first and may decline a particular match for any reason without dropping out of the program.

Thanks for investing in this "Sobriety Insurance program" for, "...nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics".

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR TEMPORARY CONTACTS

1. It is suggested that you read the A.A. pamphlet: "Bridging The Gap: Between Treatment and A.A. Through Temporary Contact Programs". Remember that A.A. offers only sobriety. It does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, welfare or social services.
 2. Remember that you may be the first contact which the inmate/client has with A.A. In order to answer questions that may arise, you should be familiar with A.A.'s Steps, Traditions and Literature.
 3. It is suggested that you have at least one year of continuous sobriety.
 4. It is strongly suggested that men work with men and women with women.
 5. It is suggested that you send the individual an A.A. meeting list. Make arrangements to meet them on the day of their release/discharge and attend a meeting with them. (A meeting on the very day of release is preferable.)
 6. DO NOT use your personal address when corresponding unless it is a P.O. Box number. You are welcome to use the address given on the bottom of this form. Call the BTG coordinator for more information.
 7. If you meet the inmate/client for the first time outside of an A.A. meeting, take another A.A. member with you, as is suggested for all 12th Step work. That member need not have one year of continuous sobriety.
 8. Additional suggestions that you may want to do are:
 - Visit the alcoholic before they leave the Facility, if possible.
 - Provide them with A.A. conference approved literature.
 - Take them to a variety of A.A. meetings once they get out.
 - Introduce them to as many A.A.'s as possible.
 - Call them.
 - Insure that they have a list of A.A. phone numbers.
 - Talk with them about sponsorship.
 - Bring them to Area Assemblies, functions and meetings. Someday, they may want to give it back!
- After making the initial contact with the new AA please call back the coordinator let then know the bridge has successfully been made!!



Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Street or Box: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Zip: _____

Please list other towns for which you are able to be a temporary contact:

Sobriety Date: _____

Home Group: _____

Gender: M _____ F _____

Age: (optional) _____

Please check preference:

Corrections _____

Treatment _____

Both _____

Please mail this form to:
New Hampshire Area Assembly
1330 Hooksett Road
Hooksett, NH 03106
Attention: Treatment Chair

For more information call Laurie at 672-1945.

If you are currently in a treatment facility, hospital, correctional institution or other residential setting, and wish to have a Bridging the Gap contact when you leave the institution, write to the address above or call Bridging the Gap at **1-800-593-3330**.

AA Trivia Corner

The first institutional AA group met at Rockland State Hospital in New York, beginning in December 1939.
The first AA group in prison met in 1942 at San Quentin in California.
(AA Comes of Age, page 12)