



Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly February 2005

One Member Shares About How It Works in Her Home Group

Our group realizes that our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. We know that in order for us to stay sober we need to pass it on. We try and do this by consistency. Every week we are there, and every week a message of hope is offered.

My home group consists of approximately 15 steady members - those who attend business meetings and do service in the group - and 20 others who attend the meeting regularly. As a small group, we immediately recognize when a newcomer walks in. Our first step in welcoming the newcomer is having greeters at the door. This is a very important thing. When someone new walks in, the first thing they see is an outstretched hand and a smile. We have an unspoken rule in our group, that when a newcomer walks in they are immediately approached by a member of the same sex and after a few minutes of talk, a phone number and future help is offered. This is not something we have planned but if you sit back and watch, it happens every time.

How It Works In the Home Group

We also know that in order for a group to function, certain responsibilities must be taken on. We have a GSR, treasurer, coffee maker, clean-up person, secretary and greeters. All of these positions are needed to keep the meeting going. We also know that these jobs aren't permanent, and that we need to let others be of service to keep it a true democracy.

A home group is very important. Just look at the first word: *home*. Home is a place where you can be yourself, where you are loved and where people know you. It is also a safety net. If you don't show up someone will notice. I, for one, needed the consistency of a home group, and today I still do. I know who I will see when I arrive, and that if I am off the beam there is someone there to help. I know I will be greeted with smiles and that I will be wanted and needed. I have a place in this group, a purpose. For me, it is home.

Jennifer B. of Dover

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.

March

"Concept One:

Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority"

April

"Love and Tolerance of Others Is Our Code"

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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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Group Information

Meeting Changes

District 12
Manch. Wednesday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Manch. Young Peoples Grp, Child & Family Services, 404 Chestnut St, 2nd fl
Group location change from Bronstein Park.

District 13
Amherst Wednesday 7:30PM - 9:00PM XC
How It Works Group, Congregational Church, Amherst Village Green
Was listed as an open meeting.

District 14
Portsmouth Saturday 7:30PM - 9:00PM X
1-2-3 Basic Step Group, Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive
Moved from Portsmouth Pavillion.

District 15
Dover Sunday 9:00AM - 10:00AM CSDH
Half & Half Group, Triangle Club, 120 Broadway
Used to end at 10:15.

Dover Wednesday 7:30PM - 8:45PM CBDH
Grateful Hearts Group, Triangle Club, 120 Broadway
Used to end at 8:30.

Rochester Thursday 10:00AM - 11:30AM SDH
12 Steps Out of the Woods, United Methodist Church, 34 South Main St.
Used to start at 10:30.

District 18
Newport Sunday 5:00PM - 6:00PM D
Discussion Meeting, Millies Place, Newport Shopping Plaza, John Stark Hwy.
Was listed as a speaker meeting that allowed smoking - discussion format only.

Newport Thursday 12:00PM - 1:00PM HDB
Out to Lunch Bunch, Millies Place, Newport Shopping Plaza, John Stark Hwy.
This is a Big Book meeting.

District 21
Hanover Thursday 8:00PM - 9:00PM CD
Living Sober Group, St. Thomas Church, West Wheelock Street
Moved from Church of Christ, N. College St, 4th floor

Disbanded Meetings

District 9
Hampstead Friday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Candlelight Spirituality, St. Christopher's Church, 178 East Road

District 13
Milford Monday 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Women's Way of Life, Church of our Savior, Amherst St.

Nashua Saturday 3:00PM - 4:30PM
Nashua Sat. Young Peoples, Salvation Army Annex, 1 Montgomery Ave.

District 15
Gonic Thursday 7:30PM
12 Steps of Life Group, First Baptist Church, 25 Church 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

When first coming to AA many of us believed that we weren't welcome at closed meetings – they must be for group members or special alcoholics only. This is far from the truth! It is the responsibility of every one of us to explain to newcomers about closed and open meetings.

Open meetings are just that – open to all who might have an interest in attending an AA meeting. In addition to alcoholics, this may include persons with addictions other than alcoholism; family or friends of alcoholics (whether AA members or not); members of the professional community or the clergy; persons ordered to attend meetings by the courts who personally don't think they have an alcohol problem; students doing research projects; or even someone who just wants a hot cup of coffee. It is suggested that at open meetings, it is even more important that we speak about our primary purpose – recovery from alcoholism – so that our visitors understand what AA is about. Most speaker meetings (not all) are open meetings.

Closed meetings should limit their attendance to people who actually want to stop drinking. Note that someone who comes in reeking of alcohol may not be drinking because they want to – the closed designation is meant to limit attendance to alcoholics. There are many reasons some people feel more comfortable at closed meetings – they may feel their anonymity is better protected, there may be fewer disruptions, or they may not like having children around them.

A suggested statement for open or closed meetings that explains our primary purpose is available on card stock. This free item is published by GSO in New York and is available in from the Service Office. We also include the Primary Purpose card in all Newcomers Packets.

We expect to issue the next statewide meeting list in March – be sure to order some for your group!

We'd like to thank Cynthia R. of Manchester for helping with collating and stuffing envelopes.

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!

December Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Bedford Big Book Step Study	Amherst
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
An Hour With Bill & Bob	Berlin
Friday Noon Acceptance	Concord
Dover Original	Dover
Grateful Hearts Group	Dover
Saturday Nite Commitment	Dover
Tuesday Nontime Group	Dover
Amethyst 12 & 12	Epping
Keep It Simple	Exeter
Farmington Friday Step Group	Farmington
Women In Need Of Sobriety	Gonic
Hampstead Big Book	Hampstead
Eye Opener Group	Hampton
Came To Believe Group	Keene
Friday Night Group	Keene
On Awakening	Keene
What's Good About Today	Kittery
4th Edition Twilight	Laconia
Up Close & Personal	Laconia
Women's Stepping Up Group	Laconia
Lancaster Group	Lancaster
Lee Discussion Group	Lee
Primary Purpose Group	Lincoln
12 & 12 Step Group	Littleton
Thursday Step Group	Littleton
Beech Street Big Book	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Happy Hour East	Manchester
Living-Loving-Sharing 12 Steps	Manchester
North End Group	Manchester
Original Happy Hour West	Manchester
Over 50 Group	Manchester
Pinardville Fellowship	Manchester
Precise Method	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Milford Womens Group	Milford
Souhegan Sun	Milford
Winnie's Womens Group	Moultonboro
Early Bird Group	Nashua
Peculiar Mental Twists	Nashua
South Nashua Today Group	Nashua
Saturday AM BB Step Study	Newington
Gosh Port	Newport
New Sunlight Group	North Conway
12 Step Women's Group	Pelham
EDANB Women's Group	Peterborough
Our Town Group	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Covered Bridge Group	Plymouth
Happy Hour Group	Portsmouth
High Nooners	Portsmouth
Sunday Morning Daybreak	Portsmouth
Tuesday Night Young People	Portsmouth
Rindge Original Step Meeting	Rindge
Friday Night 12 Stepper	Suncook
Baigis Group	Tamworth
Living Sober Group	Warren
Whitefield Group	Whitefield
Noontime Group	Wolfeboro Falls

From the Grass Roots*: Nickels and Dimes



reprinted from the March 1960 Grapevine

At my home group, I carry a small container marked "Grapevine—Nickels, Dimes, and Pennies." In three weeks' time I collected enough for a subscription; as I do this each week the fund keeps growing and the Carrollton Group gives a subscription to each new thirty-day member.

We plan to continue this practice for the coming year.

Enclosed you will find four new subscriptions and hope that you have enjoyed hearing what we are doing in New Orleans to further getting the Grapevine into the homes of members both old and new and also to help out General Service which really deserves it.

H.S. of New Orleans, LA

** From the Grass Roots was an early name of the Grapevine's letter department.*

Is there some way your home group reaches out to new members? Is there something you do to encourage members to subscribe to the Grapevine? Do you give Big Books to members who need them, or to a local facility? Tell us what your group is doing to carry the AA message! Your article can be submitted to Pipeline, NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106, or via email to froggyk@netscape.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Area PI/CPC Update

Greetings and best wishes to you for a healthy & productive 2005!

Area PI/CPC will conduct quarterly meetings this year at the Area Service Office to fine tune and tweak our "carrying the message" operations from 1 - 3 PM on Saturdays. Several District PI/CPC chairs place literature orders during the week and enjoy the convenient pick up prior to our meeting.

Our scheduled meeting dates are February 12, May 14, September 10, and December 10.

Please plan on attending and sharing your District's success, needs, and ideas on how we can all improve.

Best regards,

*John S., Area 43 PI/CPC Chair
603 668-1096*

NHAA Convention To Be Held in April

The Annual Area 43 Alcoholics Anonymous Convention will be held April 1, 2, and 3 at the Sheraton Nashua Hotel (same site as in 2003).

Registration forms are available from your Service Office or from the Area Website at www.nhaa.net. Convention registration is just \$20, and helps to cover the cost of securing the hotel and the expense of the speakers' travel.

The theme of this convention is "Basics of our Home Group - Recovery, Unity & Service."

For more information contact Lin B., your Area 43 Function Committee Chair, at 485-2064, or Joyce C. at 672-0385.

AA Trivia Corner

When and where was the first NH State Convention held?

One View on Singleness of Purpose

A Drug Is a Drug Is a Drug? Let's Think About our Primary Purpose

The theme for the 2004 Annual Conference was "Our Singleness of Purpose". There has been much discussion how at meetings, open and closed, there appears to be an increasing tolerance of discussion "other than alcoholism". Our Big Book, the *Twelve and Twelve*, and the short and long form of the conference-approved literature, "*Problems Other Than Alcohol*" are just some of the great resources to answer what we are and are not. And of course, Dr. Bob and Bill W.'s writings and taped speeches address our Primary Purpose, time after time. The last thing Dr. Bob said to Bill W. was "Let's keep this thing simple". In one of Bill W's last addresses to A.A., Bill noted that there is no outside entity that could destroy Alcoholics Anonymous, BUT we have the power to destroy A.A. from inside (the fellowship).

I know we are all very caring and giving people in A.A. I know we all want the "hand of A.A. to always be there, when anyone anytime reaches out for help." But we must remember WHAT our primary purpose actually is.

A few weeks ago it hit me smack in the face. I received a call from a gal I sponsor in our fellowship. She had just gotten off the phone with a gal she sponsors, who had a family member who wants to get off of heroin. Her sponsee could not get the heroin addict admitted to a hospital, for all the hospitals she called told her they could not handle a person withdrawing from heroin. The lady I sponsor was concerned for the person she sponsors and also the person wanting to get off of heroin. As much I wished I could have given her advice on how to help the heroin addict withdraw from the drug, I could not – other than to pray for them.

A week later I was back home in Ohio, and went on a Twelve-Step call with a gal in the program. When we got there, we quickly discovered that the person was withdrawing from methamphetamine, NOT alcohol. Again, there was nothing this old-timer and I could do but talk the gal into going to the local emergency room. I can help a person to withdraw from alcohol, but I have NO clue on drugs.

When I first came to A.A. there were no rehabs, so A.A. members helped a person wanting to get sober, to withdraw from alcohol. That's how it was before rehabs became the "place to go" to withdraw

from booze, and that is the way it is returning to since the insurance companies are closing rehab after rehab.

We need to ask ourselves as sober members of A.A. just what is our primary purpose. If we cannot find the answer ourselves, then we need to find someone in A.A. who can show us where the answer is in our conference-approved literature.

Are we doing anyone a favor or service when we accept at closed meetings those who introduce themselves as "alcoholic/addict" or "addict"? When we do, we have just accepted that that person is "different" from us. Being "unique" just does not work in recovery from alcohol – just ask those who are still out there drinking.

How would you, as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in recovery, help someone who called the hotline in the middle of the night who is addicted to heroin or methamphetamine, and was in withdrawals? What would your group advise someone who walked into your meeting who was addicted to heroin, LSD, crack, or marijuana and had a craving for their "drug of choice" right then? What if they asked what could they do when they have a craving for "their drug of choice" in the middle of the night when they are alone?

So when we hear "a drug is a drug is a drug" at an A.A. meeting, we better stop and remember our primary purpose. There is nothing wrong with reaching out to someone wanting help with problems OTHER THAN alcohol, and directing them to the correct program that will help them. We are not fulfilling our "responsibility" as stated in A.A. if we don't. The Big Book talks about doing one thing and one thing well. We are Alcoholics Anonymous; we have one primary purpose, and as Dr. Bob said to Bill W., let's keep this thing simple.

Catherine G. of Northwood, your Area 43 Delegate

AA Trivia Corner

The first NH State Convention was held in July 1966 at the Eastern Slopes Inn in North Conway. It has been held annually since at various locations, with the exception of 2001.