



# Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly

March 2005

## Toward a Clarification of Construction: Our English Cousins Struggle to Understand AA Structure, As Do We

reprinted from the May 1975 Grapevine

In an *après-group* tea session, we had got onto politics and structure in AA, when James remarked that he thought there was no government as such; everything was left to "the group conscience."

"We can do as we like," he announced, a bit smugly, I thought.

"Well, no, not really," said the group secretary. "There is, of course, the board."

"The board?"

"Yes, the Board of Trustees, who see that groups and intergroups keep to the Steps and Traditions. It's made up of both AA members and nonalcoholics. They are sort of guardians of the Traditions."

"And the groups elect them?"

"Er, no. Actually, they elect themselves."

"Heck, that's not very democratic. That's an inner circle."

"Well, no, not really. They suggest who should be elected, but Conference has to approve their choice."

"And who or what is Conference when it's at home?"

"Conference is formed of representatives sent by all the intergroups once a year to discuss policy and any other matters brought up by intergroups." [Delegates to the U.S.-Canadian General Service Conference are elected by group general service representatives—GSRs—and area committee members. Intergroups or central offices are entirely separate from the general service structure in these two countries.]

"Still, the board, once elected, is all-powerful."

"Well, not exactly. Again, Conference has to endorse their ruling, and it's Conference that decides on all major issues and policies of running AA in the country. Without its approval, nothing really can be changed or added."

"So really it's Conference that has the big stick. What they say goes. If they pass something, it's law."

"Well, no. Traditionally, yes, but not by law. The board is not forced to accept these findings, though I think they always have."

"That's all very fine. Nobody is in charge, and anyone is. Still, it looks as if Conference can get dug in on the wrong track and no one can stop them."

"No, not exactly. You see, members are elected for three years

by their intergroups, but if they don't follow intergroup instructions, they would be chucked out." [U.S.- Canadian Conference delegates are elected for two-year terms.]

"But they're elected for three years, and a lot can be worked out in three years."

"Well, they're elected for three years, but intergroup could chuck them out if they did not do as they were told."

"Then they're not elected for three years, but only one."

"Not really. They're elected for three years as long as—"

"Forget it. I am sure we're all now completely at a loss to see any sort of structure. Now we are down to intergroups who apparently tell the Conference delegates what to do. They in turn tell the board what to do, and they need not do it if they don't want. Clear as mud. Anyway, intergroups seem to be the important part, since they form Conference, and two or more intergroups could get together and push everybody around, including the groups."

"Well, no, not really, since intergroups are formed by the group representatives, and if the group representative gets out of hand, the group can chuck him out and elect a new one."

"Oh, come off it. Now you're saying the groups run the whole show, and obviously the group takes heed of what the secretary and the experienced old-timers say.

In fact, you're the most important member of AA."

"No, no. We all know that the most important member is the one who has just arrived."

"Oh, heck, this is really terrific. The business is run by the office boy; the factory, by the apprentice. Great! No wonder people say, 'I can't tell you how it works.'"

"Well, you see, that is why we have a board of trustees—to see that we don't stray from the principles of—"

"Hold it! This is where I came in."

James sat down and lit another of his ghastly cigarettes. Ginny Jean looked up and said, "I don't understand a word. Still, it does work, or I wouldn't be here, would I?"

"You've got a point there," mused James, nodding like a wise old professor.

"Oh, have I really? Thank you."

N.B. of Great Britain

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Concept One:  
Final  
Responsibility  
and Ultimate  
Authority

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

Send submissions to [froggyk@netscape.com](mailto: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.

April

"Love and Tolerance of Others Is Our Code"

May

"Concept Five:

Minority Opinion – Are We Listening?"

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A Publication of the  
NH Area 43 Assembly of  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**

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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 8

Concord Thursday 8:00PM - 9:15PM HDS  
Crazy in AA Young People's, Knights of Columbus, 55 Bradley St  
*Street address corrected from 50 Bradley St.*

Concord Wednesday 12:00PM - 1:00PM HDB  
Wednesday Noon BB Mtg, St. Paul's Church, 27 Center Street  
*Street address corrected from 21 Center St.*

Henniker Sunday 10:00AM - 11:30AM HDS  
Broken Elevator Group, Old Grange Hall, 5 Western Ave  
*Address clarification.*

### District 9

Lndnderry. Thursday 7:30PM - 9:00PM CSHD  
Live and Let Live Group, Londonderry Christian Church, 372 Mammoth Road  
*Was just a discussion meeting; now speaker-discussion.*

Lndnderry. Tuesday 7:30PM - 9:00PM D  
A Vision for You, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Rte 128, Peabody Row  
*Type change from Speaker to Discussion.*

### District 12

Manch. Sunday 10:00AM - 11:30AM SD  
North End Group, Tirrell House, 15 Brook Street  
*Used to meet at NH Tower Cafe, moved to Tirrell House some time ago.*

### District 14

Portsmouth Wednesday 7:00PM - 7:45PM SD  
Reborn Beginners Group, St. Patrick's School Hall, 125 Austin St.  
*Added speaker to meeting type.*

Portsmouth Wednesday 7:30PM - 8:30PM HD  
Higher Power Group, The Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive  
*Used to be a speaker/discussion.*

Portsmouth Friday 5:30PM - 6:30PM SD  
Happy Hour Group, Unitarian Church, 292 State St.  
*Added speaker to meeting type.*

Portsmouth Saturday 2:00PM - 3:00PM SDH  
Afternoon Delight, Salvation Army Building, 15 Middle St.  
*Used to end at 3:15PM, added speaker to meeting type.*

Seabrook Tuesday 6:00PM - 7:00PM SDH  
Help For Today, Seabrook Church of Christ, 867 Lafayette Rd.  
*Added discussion to meeting type; also is handicap accessible.*

### District 17

Bethlehem Sunday 7:00AM - 8:00AM HCS  
Age of Miracles Speaker Grp, Friendship House, Route 302  
*Used to meet from 9:30 AM-10:45AM*

## Disbanded Meetings

### District 12

Manch. Friday 7:00PM - 8:15PM  
Women's We Care With Hope, 1st Cong. Church, Corner Hanover & Union Sts

Hooksett 1st Wednesday 7:30PM - 9:00PM  
Twelve Concepts Meeting, NH Area Service Office, 1330 Hooksett Rd.

### District 14

Portsmouth Monday - Friday 12:00PM - 1:00PM  
Hi Nooners Big Book, Salvation Army, 15 Middle Street  
*Regular Hi Nooners still meets; only Big Book meetings have disbanded.*



## 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 new statewide meeting lists are in!** The importance of accurate meeting information to a newcomer can never be overstated – imagine reaching out for help and finding no one there to talk to. Please order some of these new lists for your group – and for the AA newcomer.

We also provide a number of other items specifically geared toward welcoming new members. The Big Book, *Living Sober* and *Daily Reflections* are only the tip of the iceberg – there are World Service pamphlets such as *Is AA for Me?*, *A Newcomer Asks, Do You Think You're Different?*, and *AA at a Glance* which are also published by AA World Services. We even produce two items for newcomers ourselves. We revised our beginners pamphlet last year to provide more helpful suggestions for the new AA member – these are available in packets of 25 for just \$1. We also put together newcomers packets – a statewide meeting list and several AA pamphlets in an attractive wrapper that warmly welcomes the newcomer, all for just \$1.

We'd like to thank Cynthia R. of Manchester for collating, folding 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!*

# January Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Alton Bay Group	Alton Bay
Barnstead Original	Barnstead
Barrington Group	Barrington
Clean & Serene Big Book	Bedford
How To 12&12	Bedford
Berlin Group	Berlin
Newfound Lake Group	Bristol
Coming Alive Group	Canterbury
As Bill Sees It	Concord
Crazy In AA Young Peoples	Concord
Monday AM Think	Concord
Thurs Noon 12 Step Group	Concord
Young Peoples Meeting	Concord
Keep It Simple Beginners	Conway Village
Come As You Are	Ctr Conway
Derry Original Group	Derry
Early Evening Serenity	Derry
Men's Beginners Group	Derry
Dover Original	Dover
Meet Us Halfway	Dover
Monday Noon Group	Dover
Morning Reflections	Dover
Sat. Nite Commitment	Dover
Women In Dignity	Durham
Simply Grateful	Epsom
Exeter Big Book	Exeter
Exeter Serenity	Exeter
Women's Joy Of Living	Hampstead
Monday At Three	Hampton
Fri Nite Live Grapvine	Hancock
Keep Coming Back	Henniker
Mid-Day	Hillsboro
One Day At A Time	Hopkinton
Get It Together Group	Hudson
T.O.A.D. Group	Keene
Women's Group	Keene
What's Good About Today	Kittery
Lee Discussion Group	Lee
Original Sunday Night Group	Littleton
Big Book Step Study	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Keep It Simple	Manchester
Mens 12 Step Intro	Manchester
New Life Group	Manchester
Pathway To Sobriety	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
B&M Freedom Group	Merrimack
Souhegan Sun	Milford
Winnie's Womens Group	Moultonboro
A New Day Group	Nashua
New Alternative	Nashua
Sat Am Women In Recovery	Nashua
Terrace Group	Nashua
Tuesday Nite Beginners	New London
Monday Night Big Book	North Conway
Stools & Bottles	Pelham
12 Step Group	Peterborough
EDANB Women's Group	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
12 & 12 BYOB	Portsmouth
Reborn Group	Portsmouth
Rochester Friday Nite	Rochester
Genesis 12 Step Group	Salem
Salem Noontime Group	Salem
Suncook Common Ground	Suncook
Warner CAP Group	Warner
Warner Group	Warner
Coffee And Doughnuts	Wolfeboro

Thirty-Ninth Annual Area 43 - New Hampshire

## AA CONVENTION

Sheraton Nashua Hotel

11 Tara Boulevard - Nashua

### “Basics of Our Home Group - Recovery, Unity and Service”

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 1 - 3, 2005**  
**Speakers - Discussions - Workshops - Hospitality Room -  
 Al-Anon Participation - Saturday Night Dance**

#### Featured Speakers:

Friday Night - Sally McA. of Providence RI

Saturday Morning - Victor & Karen L. of Eden MD

Saturday Night - Jack C. of Hagerstown MD

Sunday Morning - Scott G. of Peterborough NH

**Registration \$20 - includes all speakers, dance, workshops & coffee.**

**Attendance at meetings & workshops requires registration.**



### Be a Bozo on the Bus – Join Us in Going to Toronto!

There are a handful of seats still available on the Area 43 bus to the International Convention in Toronto – AA's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

There are many advantages to traveling with your New Hampshire friends: simple planning, multiple pick-up points to choose from; direct service to your hotel in Toronto; inexpensive travel arrangements; and the most memorable meeting before and after the meeting you've ever experienced!

If you're interested please contact the Area 43 Toronto Subcommittee as soon as possible, either at NH2Toronto2005IC@yahoo.com or by calling Karen 623-8252 or Diane 647-4469. We'll be happy to send

you the necessary paperwork to join us on this exciting trip.

Just a reminder, if you have had a felony conviction or DWI/DUI (considered a felony in Canada) in your past, to legally cross the border you need to contact the Canadian government. Fees may be associated with the necessary permits.

Bus fare is just over \$100 round trip and does not include convention registration or hotel arrangements. Bus passengers are required to obtain passports, in accordance with Canadian recommendations. Al-Anon members, as well as our AA friends from neighboring states, are welcome to join us too!

*Your Toronto Subcommittee*

## AA Trivia Corner

In AA, who is  
“the ultimate authority”?

*Last month we presented one article on singleness of purpose; this month we present another:*

## **Should Mainstream AA Change Course?**

I have only a small view of the events that have and are happening over AA's lifetime and then from only my Area. The new member sometimes sees a way to "make AA better" and change AA – I believe this phenomenon has been happening from most likely the second or third AA meetings and will always. This is especially true with our principle of being inclusive and not exclusive of membership.

I believe the principle of being inclusive is often mis-referenced. AA's position is one of being inclusive of all people who suffer from *alcoholism* and *NOT* one of being inclusive of all people who suffer. I've heard people – and their sponsors – say that, "They have the right to participate at AA meeting because we are inclusive," and "Why not help these troubled people?" Some examples are (and this is not an inclusive or exclusive list): nonalcoholic addicts; nonalcoholic overeaters; nonalcoholic gamblers; nonalcoholic sex addicts; nonalcoholics with mental conditions; nonalcoholic bank robbers – we could increase the list ad infinitum!

AA's preamble states "*Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.*" Our message is one of a spiritual solution that will put my alcoholism in a state of remission, only as long as the completed process of recovery has been executed and I continue the process and way of life on a daily – hour, minute and second by second – basis.

In a 1958 Grapevine article, "Problems Other Than Alcohol," Bill W. wrote: "*Our first duty, as a Society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activities. . . . Sobriety – freedom from alcohol –*

*through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. group. . . . We have to confine our membership to alcoholics and we have to confine our A.A. groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone."*

I have seen and witnessed some of the sidestream/offshoot movements, such as Rational Recovery, Moderation Management, Big Book Step Study Groups, SMART Recovery, and a movement by some professionals and rehabs to remove the label of the medical condition from the person. Some would prefer not to be an Alcoholic, but A Person with Alcoholism – they feel better that way. So instead of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), it would be A Person with Alcoholism Anonymous (APAA). I do know that if it is not AA, its not AA.

The course of main stream AA has stood and is continuing to stand the test of time. Let these side stream movements approach a track record of nearly 70 years (June 10, 2005 AA's 70th Birthday) and helping countless alcoholics, their families and their friends – then and only will I consider them a equitable option.

AA for me is one alcoholic helping an another alcoholic no matter what time of day or night, not passing the buck that some else will do it, not "I am only here to help with the steps" or "I do not take any calls after 9pm, I need my rest" or "Take two aspirins and call someone in the morning," etc.

I want to stay right in the middle of main stream AA where the waters are deep, blue and stood the test of time.

*Rick A. of Cape Neddick ME*

### **District 18 has launched a website!**

It hasn't yet found a permanent home, but you can find a current link at the Area 43 website, [www.nhaa.net](http://www.nhaa.net).

This new website will keep you current on District 18 news.

District 18 is the Claremont, Newport, New London, and Sunapee region.

## **AA Trivia Corner**

Tradition 2 tells us that our ultimate authority is "*a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.*" Concept 1 tells us that ultimate authority for AA world services resides "*in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*"

AA groups serve at the top of our service structure, and trustees at the bottom.