



# Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly

April 2005

## The Newcomer

### *His was more than the ordinary, run-of-the-mill dual problem*

*from the April 1978 Grapevine*

I didn't notice anything that unusual about the fellow when he first came in and sat down. He was a young man, probably in his early thirties, with long brown hair and a heavy beard with tufted curls in it. He seemed to have a pretty good case of the shakes, and I knew how he felt. I had a vague feeling that possibly I'd seen him before. Out here in the countryside, everyone starts looking familiar after a while.

Since the man was a newcomer, we had a First Step meeting. A few of us told our stories; then Harry, an old-timer chairing the meeting, asked him if he had anything he'd like to say.

The new man twisted his neck, sniffed a couple times, glanced out the window like there was something outside he was afraid of, nodded, and fumbled with a cigarette, which he finally lit with his fourth match. He kept backing his face away from the flame.

We all waited patiently.

"I really like you people," he said finally. "I'm like that when I drink, all right. I'm sure I'm an alcoholic, only. . ."

"Only what?" we prompted.

"I'm not sure I'll fit in here."

Harry read him the Third Tradition, reminding him that all it takes to qualify is a desire to stop drinking.

"Yeah, I want to quit all right. Oh, by the way, I forgot, my name is Lester and I'm an alcoholic. But that's not all of it—you see, I'm also a werewolf."

I've got to hand it to Harry. He never blinked an eye at that. He's heard them all. "Go on," he said.

"Well, you're sure you don't mind?"

We didn't mind. We wanted to hear this story.

"Well, it's like this. You probably know about the full moon, what it does to me—I change. I hate it. I don't know if I started drinking when I found out what I was like, but the way it's getting, I'm drunk most of the time now.

"It used to be that I'd remember what I did. Now sometimes I wake up in the morning all scratched up and bruised, mud on my shoes like I was running through the woods all night, and I couldn't tell you whether I'd killed someone or not during the night."

"That's called a blackout," said Harry. "It's a sign of alcoholism."

"Maybe you don't understand. I'm supposed to be mean and vicious and run around and attack innocent people and tear out their throats. That's what a werewolf does, you know. But I mean, like last month, I remember running down Main Street in the village, only I was a little drunk, you see. I tripped and fell through a plate glass window, and there I was all cut up and biting this mannequin.

"You know how hard those things are? Made of plastic. I mean look." He bared his teeth. Several of them were chipped. "I'm a disgrace to the clan."

"I've felt like that myself," said Harry.

Lester hunched over as though in pain. "Hey, can somebody pull that shade? The moonlight is starting to get to me."

"Don't worry about it."

"What do you mean—don't worry about it? You don't know what it's like."

This thing was getting a little out of hand, I thought. I started to nudge Harry. I wanted to tell him, hey, maybe this man needs a little mental help, he could be dangerous, or. . .

Harry looked at me as though reading my mind.

"You remember how you were when you came in?" That was all he needed to say. I could recall only too well: maybe worse than Lester.

The moonlight splashed into the room, and I saw Harry's face look suddenly kind of, well, it looked like. . .

"Listen, Lester," growled Harry. He reached out his hand. It was hairy. I'd never noticed that before. "Don't worry about a thing. I'll be your sponsor."

We said the Lord's Prayer. I prayed hard that night.

As it turned out, however, my fears were groundless. A year has passed now, and Lester is sober and working the program. And our group here is growing quite remarkably, particularly because of the efforts of Harry and Lester. I'll tell you, you send them out on a Twelfth Step call at the right time of the month, the new pigeon gets on the program fast.

*R.P. of Milwaukee, WI*

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*Love and  
Tolerance  
of Others  
Is Our Code*

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.

**May**

*"Concept Five:*

*Minority Opinion – Are We Listening?"*

**June**

*"The Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition"*

# Pipeline

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

## New Groups

- District 9**  
Derry Saturday 7:00PM - 8:30PM BD  
Derry Fountain of Youth, Friendship Center, 45 E Broadway
- District 11**  
Laconia Tuesday 12:00PM - 1:00PM D  
As Bill Sees It, Cong. Church Parish Hall, Veteran's Sq (Depot Sq)  
Laconia Thursday 12:00PM - 1:00PM D  
Reflection on Thursday, Cong. Church Parish Hall, Veteran's Sq (Depot Sq)
- District 18**  
Acworth Friday 7:00PM - 8:15PM B  
Acworth Congregational Church, Center Acworth

## Meeting Changes

- District 10**  
Salem Tuesday 6:45PM - 8:00PM HS  
Windham Beginners Group, American Legion Post #63, 38 Millville St  
End time change from 7:45pm.
- District 11**  
Franklin Monday 7:30PM - 9:00PM HD  
Living Sober, 1st Baptist Church, Church Street  
Meeting moved from St. Jude Episcopal, 237 Central St.
- District 14**  
Kittery, ME Sunday 7:30PM - 8:30PM SH  
Dry Dock 29, Lions Club, US Rte 1  
Added handicap accessible to meeting type.  
Kittery, ME Wednesday 7:00PM - 8:00PM XBHD  
There is a Solution, St Raphael's Church, 6 Whipple Rd.  
Added step to meeting type.
- Portsmouth Saturday 7:30PM - 8:30PM SDH  
Portsmouth Original Group, City Hall - Great Room, Junkins Ave.  
Added speaker to type and removed Al-Anon nearby.
- Portsmouth Mon - Fri 12:00PM - 1:00PM SDH  
Hi Nooners, Salvation Army Building, Middle Street  
Added speaker to type.
- District 17**  
Berlin Friday 7:00PM - 8:00PM SDZ  
Berlin Friday Night Group, St. Anne's Hall, 260 School Street  
Used to end at 8:30 pm.
- Bethlehem Sunday 9:30AM - 10:45AM HCS  
Age of Miracles Speaker Group, Friendship House, Route 302  
Erroneously changed time in last month's Pipeline.
- Groveton Friday 8:00PM - 9:00PM D  
Groveton Group, Methodist Church  
Meeting moved from Union Hall.
- Woodsville Friday 8:00PM - 9:00PM D  
Woodsville Area Group, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Maple Street  
Meeting moved from Methodist Church also on Maple St.
- District 19**  
Keene Thursday 8:00PM - 9:00PM HDC  
Keene Thursday Night Step Grp, The Community Kitchen, 37 Mechanic St  
Added handicap accessible to meeting type.

## Disbanded Meetings

- District 14**  
Portsmouth Wednesday 7:45PM - 9:00PM  
Seaside 12 & 12, Methodist Church, 525 Lafayette Road
- District 21**  
Lebanon Saturday 8:00PM - 9:00PM  
Sat. Night Live, Alice Peck Day Hospital, 125 Mascoma St
- Enfield Tuesday 8:00PM - 9:00PM  
Enfield Group, St. Helena's Church, Shaker Hill 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

Did you know that some of your favorite AA literature is available in audio formats? *Alcoholics Anonymous* (the Big Book), *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *Living Sober* and selections from *Inmate to Inmate* have all been available on audio cassette through your Service Office for years – the Big Book is also available on CD. Recently, we also added *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* to our audio inventory. Many members enjoy listening to the literature when traveling, while others have difficulty reading because of failing eyesight or literacy issues. These audio collections are a wonderful way to get the message!

In addition to these World Services audio selections, we also carry a variety of Grapevine cassettes and CD's, including such favorites as *Pathways to Spirituality*, *Sponsorship*, *Not for Newcomers Only*, *Youth Enjoying Sobriety*, *History Lights the Way* and classic collections. The Grapevine audio items are collections of actual Grapevine articles read by professional voice-actors. Individual tapes are just \$8; CD's are \$10.

Please refer to the current office order form for a complete listing of our audio selections. You can obtain an order form at the Area 43 website at [www.nhaa.net](http://www.nhaa.net) or by calling our office at 622-6967.

We'd like to thank Katie for donating candy and Cynthia R. of Manchester for her help this month.

*In grateful service, Karen, Mary Anne and Ingrid*

## Meeting Space Available in Portsmouth!

Crossroads House at 600 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth is interested in having meetings at their shelter. Contact Laura Calhoun at 436-2218 or [laura@crossroadhouse.org](mailto:laura@crossroadhouse.org). They are particularly interested in a woman's meeting, but would be very pleased to have any meeting at the facility.

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!*

## February Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Barrington Group	Barrington
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Berlin Group	Berlin
Saturday Morning Step	Bradford
Daily Reflections	Concord
Monday Nite Step	Concord
New Womens Step Group	Concord
Thursday Noon 12 Step	Concord
As Bill Sees It	Derry
Derry Original Group	Derry
Derry Women's Group	Derry
Saturday Nite Live	Derry
Dover Original	Dover
Sat. Nite Commitment	Dover
Sunday Noon	Dover
Keep It In AA	Gonic
Hampstead Angels	Hampstead
Just For Today	Hampton
Came To Believe Group	Keene
Kingston 12 & 12	Kingston
Dry Dock #29	Kittery
Tues Nite 12 Step Group	Laconia
Courage To Change	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Happy Hour East	Manchester
Joy Of Living	Manchester
Living Sober	Manchester
New Life Group	Manchester
Original Happy Hour West	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Round Robin Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
Interlakes Beginners	Meredith
Milford No-Name Group	Milford
Living Sober Group	N. Conway
A New Day Group	Nashua
Early Bird Group	Nashua
Remember When Group	Nashua
South Nashua Today	Nashua
New London Group	New London
Sat. Big Book Meeting	Northwood
12 Step Women's Group	Pelham
Our Town Group	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Women's Meeting	Plymouth
Early Bird Group	Portsmouth
Reborn Group	Portsmouth
Courage To Change	Raymond
Raymond Grapevine	Raymond
Rochester Original	Rochester
Safe Harbor Women's Beg	Salem
Salem Saturday Morning	Salem
Sanbornville Group	Sanbornville
Saturday Nite Live	Springfield
Quitting Time	Tuftonboro
Noontime Group	Wolfeboro Falls

## NHSCYPAA VI ROCKED!

After a 5-year absence, the sixth annual New Hampshire Conference of Young People in AA returned March 4 - 6 in Nashua NH. The theme of this year's conference was "We are not a glum lot," (p. 132, *Alcoholics Anonymous*), and those in attendance proved this. At meetings, dances, in the hallways or in the lobby, I was met with unbridled enthusiasm for sobriety.

Over 200 AA members attended the conference, mostly from New Hampshire and Massachusetts. While all ages were represented (in AA, young means "still room to grow"), most were in their twenties, and many weren't yet legal drinking age. When the countdown was tallied Saturday night, there was over 500 years of sobriety in the room.

Kudos to the committee that hosted NHSCYPAA VI. These young people (most committee

members are under age 35, and all are AA members, per conference guidelines) put in many hours of service to make this event a rocking good time – *We love you, committee, lots and lots and lots, and WHOLE bunches!*

One disappointment was that no one stepped forward with a complete bid to host NHSCYPAA VII in 2006. At the bid session, there were members who expressed an interest in hosting next year's event,, so the NHSCYPAA Advisory Council announced that they would hold a special bid meeting in April.

Bids will be entertained on Saturday April 2 at the Concord Public Library (in the auditorium), 45 Green Street in Concord, at 1 pm. For more information, including bid requirements, go to [www.nhscypaa.org](http://www.nhscypaa.org) or call Tim M. at 943-0218.

*Karen S. of Manchester*



## Seats on Toronto Bus Still Available

Your Toronto Subcommittee still has a few seats available on the bus we've chartered to go to the International Convention in Toronto (June 30 - July 3). These are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You'll be helping to keep the cost down for other alcoholics, as well as participating in hours of fellowship during the trip. We'd love to have you along! For more information please call Karen at 623-8252 or Diane at 647-4469.

## AA Trivia Corner

Who votes at the annual  
General Service Conference?

## **I Cannot Put a Price on the Value of My Home Group**

I stopped abusing alcohol and drugs for New Years 2003. Newly sober and absolutely terrified, I immersed myself in every meeting I could find. My Friday night women's meeting was the big one that had lots of great sobriety and quickly I had a sponsor from that meeting who encouraged me to take a service position. I started to be the 'chip-chick'; handing out all the chips and giving hugs.

By ten months sober I'd become an egomaniac. I was trying to do it my way and wasn't willing or honest anymore. I was teetering on a very fine line of being miserably **dry**, and it was the responsibility to do those chips that kept me coming to that meeting and for a few weeks, actually kept me sober.

I even whined to my sponsor, "I want to quit doing the chips! How much longer to I have to keep coming Friday nights?!" She quietly and with a slight smirk politely said, "Until you want to."

Now with a modest two plus years in the program, I can look back with great clarity and realize that this is my home group.

To see the same familiar faces week after week, to pour your guts out and cry and embarrass yourself in front of these wonderful women - they started to feel like family to me. It began to feel like a safe place where I can actually be myself and not have to worry about being judged.

I was unable to see any progress in myself; that's what made it so important when I heard about my growth through my friends in that meeting at anniversary time. Their sincerity and kindness toward me did for me what I could not do for myself.

*Humbly,  
Jennifer M. of Gilmanton NH*

## **Opportunities for Service**

*"Nothing so much ensures our immunity from drinking as intense work with other alcoholics."*

### **Area Treatment Committee Needs Your Help!**

If you are interested in service work come to our next Treatment Committee Meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month (every month) at the NH Area Service Office, 1330 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, NH. Membership on the committee is open to all interested AA's. There are many ways to help.

**Be a committee member.**

**Be a temporary contact for newcomers.**

**Be a facility contact person.**

**Conduct meetings at treatment facilities.**

**Volunteer to drive residents to meetings.**

**Coordinate speakers/literature distribution.**

**Be a District Treatment Representative  
or Bridging the Gap Coordinator.**

For more information contact your District Treatment Representative or call Laurie S. at 672-1945.

### **Women Needed at Valley Street Jail**

Looking for women to carry the AA message into Valley Street Jail in Manchester! The commitment is for one Friday a month, from 7 - 8 pm. An orientation (which lasts about an hour) is required to be a "facilitator". Speakers are called in the week of the meeting. You can conduct any kind of AA meeting you like. You must have at least one year of sobriety. Contact Laurie at 672-1945,

### **Your Pipeline Needs You!**

We need distribution commitments! Do you work the night shift, and miss active service work? Distribution is a daytime event, held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month from 10 am - 2 pm. The more help we get, the faster it goes! No special skills are needed, and this is a great chance for fellowship. Call Jay at 783-4620.

## **OOPS!**

In last month's Pipeline we announced the birth of District 18's new website, but failed to mention several other districts - namely District 11 (Laconia), District 13 (Nashua) and District 21 (Hanover/Lebanon) also have a web presence. You can link to these sites through the Area 43 website at:  
<http://www.mv.com/ipusers/nhaa/index-links.html>

## **AA Trivia Corner**

*"Voting membership of the Conference includes area delegates, the directors and AA staff of AA World Services, Inc. and the AA Grapevine, Inc., and the trustees."- from page S51 of the AA Service Manual. There are 93 delegates and 21 trustees. (page S17, ibid)*