

God, Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I Cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly

May 2005

PO Box 1980 - The Minority View

from the July 1999 Grapevine

One of the things I like most about the Grapevine is that opinions get published in it that are in conflict, or disagreement, with the majority of those I hear at regular AA meetings. I believe that allowing the minority opinion to be heard is very healthy and helps to maintain the unity of our Fellowship. It lets me see that the Grapevine is not being run by a dictatorship of a few "Conference-Approved" individuals. The minority opinions I read in your articles have the same educational value as those heard during a group conscience meeting or district and area assembly meetings.

I used to drink all weekend to relieve the emotional pain I felt because someone at work had stated an opinion which I disagreed with! Not being able to discuss how I felt without becoming angry usually resulted in a resentment, which I'd suppress at work and vent on my family members when I got home.

AA has slowly changed my attitude. The views of others, right or wrong, are becoming interesting and learning experiences. I am frequently amazed by the sudden change that occurs in my thinking as the views of others are shared in an article!

I also want to say that the general appearance of the magazine is very professional looking. Organizations are often judged by their outward appearance, and I have a feeling of pride as I recycle my old issues by leaving them in the waiting rooms of my doctors' offices. Like AA itself, the Grapevine is not a secret organization. It is a very attractive medium for promoting recovery.

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Glenn P. of St. Louis, Missouri

**Concept 5:
Minority
Opinion -
Are We
Listening?**

The Pipeline

Your Forum for Minority (& Majority!) Opinion

The Pipeline, according to its statement of purpose (see page 2), strives to serve the fellowship of AA here in New Hampshire, just like the Grapevine serves Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We loosely model our newsletter after the Grapevine, whose statement of purpose partly reads, "The awareness that every AA member has an individual way of working the program permeates the pages of the Grapevine, and throughout its history the magazine has been a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of AAs around the world."

The Pipeline is YOUR forum to share your opinions on matters facing AA in New Hampshire. If you have read something in our newsletter that you found irritating or inspiring, please tell us about it.

The Pipeline's selection of articles is not based on any official view of what is right in AA, nor do the articles chosen for print necessarily express the views of the Pipeline Committee. We cannot publish material that is incoherent or defamatory to any specific person or group, but even in these cases we will make every effort to work with you to help produce a piece that expresses your opinion in publishable form. We do not print poetry or material that is not about AA. We also need your identity (first name is OK) and an address, phone number or email address to contact you if we have questions (although you may always choose to remain anonymous in print).

We hope that you'll help us to honor the importance of minority opinion, and we hope to hear from you!

The Editor

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.

June

"The Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition"
What lessons are learned from anonymity?

July

"The Basket: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"
How does our tradition of self-support lend itself to faith?

Pipeline

A Publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

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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.

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Saturdays - 10AM to 2PM

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Group Information

New Groups

District 7

Peterboro. Sunday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Young Peoples Meeting, Creating Positive Change, 40 Grove Street
Starts on May 1st!

District 9

Derry Friday 10:00PM - 11:30PM D
Moonlighter Group, Friendship Center, 45 E Broadway

Meeting Changes

District 8

Contoocook Thursday 8:00PM - 9:00PM SD
One Day at a Time Group, Odd Fellows Hall, Route 103
Moved from St. Andrews Parish Hall, 4 Main St, Hopkinton.

Pittsfield

Sunday 7:15PM - 8:30PM SDH
Coming Alive Group, Community Building, Behind General Store
Moved from Odyssey Family Ctr.

District 12

Manch. Saturday 7:30PM - 9:00PM SDH
Keep It Simple, St. Raphael Church, Ferry & 3rd, Entrance off Ferry St
Entrance clarification.

Manch.

Sunday 10:00AM - 11:15AM CD
Sunday Round Robin Group, YMCA - 2nd Floor, 30 Mechanic Street
Used to end at 11:30.

District 16

Tamworth Saturday 8:00PM - 9:15PM S*
BAIGIS Group, St Andrews in the Valley, Whittier Road
Used to start at 8:15 pm.

District 21

Lebanon Saturday 8:00PM - 9:00PM HDS
Sat. Night Live, Alice Peck Day Hospital, 125 Mascoma St
Meeting mistakenly listed as disbanded last month; STILL MEETS!

Disbanded Meetings

District 18

Newport Tuesday 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Women in Recovery, Millies Place, Newport Shopping Plaza

District 21

Lebanon Wednesday 8:00PM - 9:00PM
Keep Coming Back Group, Alice Peck Day Hospital, 125 Mascoma St

The opinions expressed by AA members in the Pipeline are those of the writers, and do not imply endorsement by Area 43 or AA as a whole.



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

It is with great sadness that we report that Doris C. of Manchester, long-time volunteer at your Service Office, passed away on March 26. She was 76 years old. For many years Doris had been a weekly fixture in our office, working behind the scenes to serve the fellowship she loved.

Every Monday Doris would arrive at 10am (and sometimes earlier, waiting for your special workers) ready to assist in any way that she could. She was responsible for cleaning the office, addressing and mailing donation receipts, and much of our collating and folding. If you've ever handed a New Hampshire Newcomer's Packet to a beginner in your group, chances are that Doris put it together for you. She even did our windows!

Her devotion to the Service Office was unwavering. When she was unable to come on a Monday she would always come later in the week to make sure her "chores" were done. But her devotion was not limited to your office - it was a devotion to Alcoholics Anonymous. Many people in District 12 knew her as a quiet GSR for a local women's group. She was active with her home group and a contact for the hotline. When Doris fell ill it was hard for her to step away from her service in AA.

Doris was far too humble to speak of these things herself - she was simply happy to help. We will miss her terribly.

If you wish to volunteer at your service office, you need not make a weekly commitment. We can always use help! Call us at 622-6967.

We'd like to thank Cynthia R. of Manchester for her help this month and District 15 for their candy donation!

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 NHA, 1330 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

March Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Sunday 12 & 12	Atkinson
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Berlin Group	Berlin
Charlestown Group	Charlestown
Colebrook Monday Step	Colebrook
Daily Reflections	Concord
Happy Hour Group	Concord
Monday AM Think	Concord
Primary Purpose	Concord
Sat Men's 12 Step Group	Concord
Sunday AM Beginners	Concord
Deerfield 12 Step Mtg	Deerfield
Derry Original Group	Derry
Men's Beginners Group	Derry
Spacetown	Derry
Brown Baggers Meeting	Dover
Clean Sweep Group	Dover
Dover Original	Dover
Sat. Nite Commitment	Dover
Sunday Noon	Dover
Durham Original Group	Durham
Living By The Book	Epping
Exeter Serenity	Exeter
Gilford Sunday Original	Gilford
Women In Need Of Sobriety	Gonic
Eye Opener Group	Hampton
Help Yourself	Hampton
Brown Bag Group	Hanover
Get It Together Group	Hudson
Keene Original	Keene
On Awakening	Keene
T.O.A.D. Group	Keene
Dry Dock #29	Kittery
What's Good About Today	Kittery
Saturday Nite Alive	Laconia
Thursday Night Original	Laconia
Sunday Big Book	Lebanon
12 & 12 Step Group	Littleton
Beech Street Big Book	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Joy Of Living	Manchester
North End Group	Manchester
Over 50 Group	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Women Back To Basics	Manchester
Women's Daytime	Manchester
B&M Freedom Group	Merrimack
New Horizons Grp	Milford
Souhegan Sunrise	Milford
Peculiar Mental Twists	Nashua
Slogan Group	Nashua
Steps To Serenity	Nashua
GVD Group	New London
Sat AM BB Step Study	Newington
New Beginning Group	Newmarket
Women In Sobriety	North Hampton
Sat. Big Book Meeting	Northwood
12 Step Group	Peterborough
Covered Bridge Group	Plymouth

What is the General Service Conference?

It is the Fellowship's weeklong annual business meeting in New York City. 93 delegates from the U.S. and Canada, alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees, directors of A.A. World Services and the A.A. Grapevine, and staff members of GSO and the Grapevine meet, which culminates in the approval of a number of Advisory Actions to guide the Fellowship during the coming years. The GSC structure is also A.A.'s primary vehicle of communications. "The GSC of A.A. is the guardian of world services and of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of A.A. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for A.A." (*Original Conference Charter: Purpose; see page S86 of the Service Manual*) At the Post-Conference Area 43 Assembly on May 14th, I as your Delegate will present my final report from this year's 55th GSC.

Yours in service, Catherine G.



Introducing the... **Roving Reporter**

Each month our roving reporter (and his trusty notebook!) will visit an AA function to ask AA questions. We'll publish as many answers as we can. The Roving Reporter introduced himself at the Pre-Conference Area Assembly in March, and asked:

Why Is the Home Group Important?

It gives you a feeling of security for a little while, when you may need it. (You're) surrounded by friends you can talk your problems over with, maybe over a cup of coffee after the meeting.

Andrew K. of East Kingston

I was taught that structure is very important to an alcoholic. It is important to me today to be a part of rather than an outsider. I was also taught that seven days without a meeting makes one weak.

Craig C. of the Nottingham Original Group

It's the nursery for the recovering alcoholic to learn how to stay sober one day at a time, learn how to become an active member of society, and learn how to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Heather D., District 14 DCM

You help me, and I learn that I can help you through my constant contact with you.

Anonymous

In the beginning of my sobriety, the home group was my port in the storm. It still is at times and also serves as something to look forward to in the week.

Anonymous

Because it's where I feel needed the most – at home. It's where people know me best, and can set me on track when I can't see where I've strayed from the right path.

Jay B., District 11 DCM

It is where people can get to know you, and will recognize when you are "off the beam" and can use some help.

Ken L., District 18 DCM

My home group is the rock of my support network.

Anonymous

The home group is important because it causes me to commit myself to attending at least one meeting a week! It also gives me a sense of belonging and feeling somewhat accountable to show up for my own recovery. It also helps me establish a routine focused on my recovery, which I know is important for me.

Mike M. of the Nottingham Original Group

The home group is important to me because there are the people who see me on a regular basis and can tell, when I say I'm fine, if I'm telling the truth or lying. And also for me I have a chance to this for others and be there for them.

Amy W. of the Heart of the Heights Group

In early sobriety it let people get to know me – even when I didn't want to be known! I was "elected" as secretary so I began my journey in service. Now I am able to be a member of my home group (best group in NH!) by getting to know others, helping the newcomer, doing service and still have others know & love me, defects and all – and I them!

Patti R. of the Kingston 12 & 12 Group

It is the home group that provides the "esprit de corps" which keeps the group members coming back. This is very important for any organization where group concept is important, (like) the military.

Martin T. of the Salem Saturday AM Group

'Cause that is where my family is.

Scott S. of the Wednesday After Work Group

When no one else cared about me my home group always did, and for that I'll always be grateful to my home group!

Thomas H. of the Dover Original Group

People get to know you – and you reconnect after the worst isolation known.

Anonymous

Is AA Just for Pure Alcoholics?

A Response to the Singleness of Purpose Article in the February Pipeline

When I read this article I flashed back to my first meeting at 16 years of age, right here in New Hampshire. I was scared and lonely. I had just left rehab for alcohol and drugs, and was told all about AA in the rehab. It was suggested to me that I go to a meeting as soon as I get out and raise my hand. I did just that. I raised my shaking hand and said, "Hi, I'm Regina and I'm an alcoholic and an addict". Immediately after that, an "oldtimer" spoke up and said, "You don't belong here!" I got extremely angry and walked out. It was six years before I made a risk like that again.

In 1995, I went to another rehab for alcohol and drugs. I again came back to AA. I didn't say anything for three months, and the day I received my three-month chip I once again raised my hand to speak. Again I said, "Hi, I'm Regina and I'm an alcoholic and an addict." After I was done sharing, an "oldtimer" raised his hand and proceeded to tell me that *there were other places for people like me*. I was devastated. There was a moment of complete silence and then five or six hands went up. One after the other they told me that I was welcome and not to let anyone tell me differently. To this day I thank God for those people.

In high school, I had a wonderful Alcohol and Drug Counselor. After that first meeting when I was 16, he told me that if I ran into that again I should tell the person to read the Third Tradition. This is the same thing that I would say now.

I agree that we have no business giving advice on how to withdraw from drugs, but I also believe that we have no business telling someone how to withdraw from alcohol. I have known people who have died from withdrawals from alcohol because they didn't go to a hospital.

When I introduce myself as an "alcoholic and an addict", I am saying that I am addicted to any mind-altering substance out there. Isn't that what AA teaches? I would not do anything different if I were craving heroin than if I were craving alcohol: I would go to a meeting and I

would pray to my Higher Power. As alcoholics don't we introduce ourselves as "alcoholics" because we need to remind ourselves of what we are? When I introduce myself as an "alcoholic and an addict", I am doing just that. I need to remember what I am. I am far from saying that I am "different" from others. There are many people who introduce themselves as I do. When I talk about my experience, strength and hope, I do mention that I am an addict as well as an alcoholic. I do not go into detail about my drug history because this *is* AA, but I do mention it because it is part of my experience. I do this to try and help others who might be going through what I went through.

You may ask, "Why does she come to AA if she is an addict too?" Let me tell you. I have been to many different programs. I have found through this journey that AA is the strongest. That's it. AA has helped me more than any other program.

It saddens me to think of any new "alcoholic addicts" out there, reading the Pipeline for the first time, that they will come across this article. I don't know of many "pure" alcoholics out there anymore, do you?

For people like me and many others I know, a drug *IS* a drug *IS* a drug. For someone who does not have a drug history to state otherwise is wrong. I just hope that if I am in a meeting when a newcomer raises their shaking hand and says, "Hi, I'm ___ and I'm an alcoholic and an addict", that I am there to welcome them, as the real oldtimers would have wanted.

To end this, I would like to add one more thing. That oldtimer in 1995 who told me that there were other places for people like me – we grew to not only tolerate each other, but to become close friends. As a matter of fact, I presented him with his 25-year medallion. I may not agree with his views on some things and he may not agree with mine, but we love each other as fellow "sick" people getting well.

Thank you for letting me share my feelings and God Bless.

Regina R. of Manchester, NH

How About the AA Grapevine?

\$5 Towards Our Meeting in Print - Pass It On!

Sponsor got an anniversary coming up?
Pigeon that likes to read AA literature?
Does your home group have a literature table?
Want to "pass it on" to correctional facilities,
treatment centers or halfway houses?
Going on vacation, taking a trip?
Need a gift for an anniversary speaker?
Discussion group looking for topics?
Need a meeting, but can't get there?

From May 1st through June 10th (AA's 70th birthday) the District 12 Grapevine Committee would like to offer a **\$5 discount** on any new annual subscription to the *AA Grapevine*. Simply make out a check to the *AA Grapevine* in the amount of \$13.00 for each subscription you'd like, with the recipient's name and mailing address, and mail to District 12 Grapevine, PO Box 3814, Manchester NH 03105.



More District Website Information

In last month's Pipeline we attempted to provide a comprehensive list of districts in Area 43 that have their own websites (11, 13, 18 & 21) but omitted District 10 (Salem/Windham), which can be found at:

www.district-10.com.

We believe these five are the only NH districts with websites - if we're wrong, please let us know so that we can post other web addresses as well. Thank you!

AA Trivia Corner

Who wrote the Preamble, and where was it first introduced?

Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*,
from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big
then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing
of the *AA Grapevine* magazine. It was written by the
The Preamble was introduced in the June 1947 issue