



Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly

June 2005

Anonymity: One Local AA Tells Us What He Thinks Today...

Anonymity is a personal thing. If we go back to our founders, anonymity is varying as can be.

Dr. Bob introduced himself by his full name. He said everybody knew who he was when he drank, so there was no sense in hiding now. If people didn't know who he was then how could they contact him?

Bill W. was just the opposite. He felt our anonymity should be protected at all costs. We should never tell anyone where we worked, our last name or any of our lives.

I feel a person's anonymity is their business. If you want to know how they feel, ask them.

My own experience with anonymity has been a trial - trial and error, that is.

The first time I was in AA I told everybody about it: my boss, the store clerk, my family. I was preaching AA's great message from the highest hill. Needless to say, with that kind of humility I failed. I failed the program, my friends, my

family and most of all myself. My sobriety failed and I drank again.

This time around I'm just Bert, and I'm just an alcoholic. If an employer or a friend needs to know then I tell them. If someone at a meeting needs or wants my number I give it to them - sometime before or after the meeting I offer my number to them. The world does not understand and does not need to know. I do not give my number during the meeting and disturb the whole proceedings. After all, what is the first thing we teach newcomers? To sit and listen! How can they listen if we're poking numbers at them? What a great example we would be setting.

Your anonymity is your business, but please remember two things. 1) How am I reflecting AA and other alcoholics as a whole? 2) What is my motive? Is it "Look at me!" or is it "Can I help?"

Bert K. of Concord

The Spiritual Principle of our Twelfth Tradition

And Bill W. Remarks on the Spiritual Principle of Anonymity

from the January 1946 Grapevine

In the years that lie ahead the principle of anonymity will undoubtedly become a part of our vital tradition. Even today we sense its practical value. But more important still, we are beginning to feel that the word "anonymous" has for us an immense spiritual significance. Subtly but powerfully it reminds us that we are always to place principles before personalities; that we have renounced personal glorification

in public; that our movement not only preaches, but actually practices a truly humble modesty. That the practice of anonymity in our public relations has already had a profound effect upon us, and upon our millions of friends in the outside world, there can hardly be doubt. Anonymity is already a cornerstone of our public relations policy.

Bill W., excerpted from "A Suggestion"

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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.

July

"The Basket: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

How does our tradition of self-support lend itself to faith?

August

"One Group, One Vote"

How do we form a group conscience?

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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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Group Information

New Groups

District 13
Milford Sunday 7:00PM - 8:00PM CDH
Milford Women's Group, Episcopal Church of Our Savior, Amherst St.
Had been disbanded - is running again.

District 19
Troy Thursday 7:00PM - 8:00PM XD
Troy 12 Step Group, Troy Congregational Church, South Main Street

District 20
N. Conway Tuesday 6:00PM CXZBD
Program of Recovery, Stuart House, 129 Duprey Road

Meeting Changes

District 11
Franklin Monday 7:30PM - 9:00PM HD
Living Sober, 1st Baptist Church, Church Street
Location change from St. Jude Episcopal Church.

District 14
N. Hampton Friday 10:00AM - 11:00AM SDH
Kitchen Table Group, United Church of Christ, Jct. Atlantic & Post Roads
Added speaker to type.

District 15
Rochester Tuesday 7:30PM - 8:45PM SH
Rochester Original, Rochester Community Ctr., 150 Wakefield St Rear entrance
Used to meet 7:30 - 8:45.

District 17
Woodsville Friday 8:00PM - 9:00PM D
Woodsville Area Group, Methodist Church, Maple Street
Group has not moved - was reported as having moved in April Pipeline.

District 19
Keene Sunday 6:30PM - 8:00PM XBD
Big Book Step Study, CIA, 463 Washington Street
Day changed from Sunday to Thursday.

Fitzwilliam Sunday 7:00PM - 8:00PM S
Fitzwilliam Original, Meadowood Assembly Hall, Bowkerville Rd (off Rt 12)
Type change: smoking and discussion removed; used to belong to district 7.

District 20
Conway Thursday 7:00PM - 8:00PM
Young Peoples Group, United Methodist Church, Main St, next to Fire Station
Name change from Keep Coming; now a young peoples meeting.

Disbanded Meetings

District 15
Durham M, W, Th, F 12:10PM - 1:00PM
Durham Action Group, St. George's Church, Main St, Park Court
Still meetings on Tuesdays; M, W, Th, F meetings disbanded.

We Want YOU!

At press time, there were two Area positions that needed to be filled:



Area PI/CPC Chair - coordinate Area activities in public information and cooperation with the professional community.

Area Registrar - An officer position that helps coordinate group records communications between Area and both GSO and the districts.

If anyone is interested and wants further information, they should contact the Service Office at 622-6967.

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

Prices are going up! The General Service Office in New York - the headquarters for AA World Services - has announced a literature price increase effective July 1. With the exception of the Big Book, the standard cost of all AA books will go up by \$1. Additionally, for those of you who place orders directly with GSO, you will see an additional 10% shipping and handling surcharge added to your bill.

While seventh tradition contributions to GSO have been slowly increasing over the last few years, they have not met the rate of inflation. GSO has been adopting several cost-cutting measures in an effort to keep operating expenses low, but the literature increase is needed to cover their budget as well as to maintain an adequate prudent reserve. It has been several years since GSO has had an across-the-board increase. But please note - other material is not affected! This means the price of pamphlets, tapes, and related World Services items, as well as all Grapevine items, will remain the same!

Your New Hampshire Service Office will be raising prices accordingly to reflect the additional costs. New price lists will be available in late June. **Shipping and handling through our office is still free of charge!** We encourage you to place literature orders before July 1 to take advantage of our current low prices. Another money-saving option is to visit our office in person - each month we feature one piece of literature on sale to walk-in customers only. In June *AA Around the World* will be available for just \$3.75 - a savings of 25%!

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

In grateful service, Karen, Mary Anne and Ingrid

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!



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!

April Donations THANK YOU!

Open Speaker Meeting	Barnstead
Barrington Group	Barrington
How To 12&12	Bedford
Belmont Original	Belmont
Berlin Friday Night	Berlin
Newfound Lake Grp	Bristol
Coming Alive Group	Canterbury
Back To Basics	Center Ossipee
Friday Noon Acceptance	Concord
Stepping Into Today	Concord
Young Peoples Meeting	Concord
Keep It Simple	Contoocook
Primary Purpose	Conway
As Bill Sees It	Derry
Derry Original Group	Derry
Derry Women's Group	Derry
Men's Beginners Group	Derry
Unity Group	Derry
Eye Opener Group	Dover
Exeter Monday Night	Exeter
Keep It Simple	Exeter
Women's Sunday Serenity	Exeter
Farmington Step Group	Farmington
End Of The Road	Greenfield
Saturday Morning AA	Hampstead
Pass It On	Hampton
One Day At A Time	Hopkinton
Came To Believe Group	Keene
Kingston 12&12	Kingston
Kittery Original	Kittery
Sunday Morning Reflections	Lebanon
Wednesday Night Step Mtg	Lebanon
Lee Discussion Group	Lee
Original Sunday Nite Group	Littleton
Out To Lunch Bunch	Littleton
Thursday Step Group	Littleton
Beech Street Big Book	Manchester
Big Book Step Study	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
North End Group	Manchester
Pathway To Sobriety	Manchester
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Women Back To Basics	Manchester
Melvin Village Group	Melvin Village
Interlakes 12 & 12	Meredith
Milford Beginners	Milford
Souhegan Sunrise	Milford
A New Day Group	Nashua
Big Book 12 Step Study	Nashua
Noontime Sobriety	Nashua
Sat AM Women In Recovery	Nashua
South Nashua Today Group	Nashua
Terrace Group	Nashua
Come Share	Ossipee
Early Morning Big Book	Peterborough
EDANB Women's Group	Peterborough
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Fresh Start Beginners Mtg	Portsmouth
Portsmouth Original Group	Portsmouth
Sunday AM Closed Disc.	Portsmouth
Sunday Morning Daybreak	Portsmouth
Tuesday Nite Young People	Portsmouth
Rindge Original Step Mtg	Rindge
Salem Noontime Group	Salem
Sanbornville Group	Sanbornville
Suncook Common Ground	Suncook
BAIGIS Group	Tamworth
Quitting Time	Tuftonboro
Living Sober Group	Warren
Coffee And Doughnuts	Wolfeboro



Your... Roving Reporter

Each month our roving reporter (and his trusty notebook!) visits an AA function to ask AA questions. We'll publish as many answers as we can. He planted himself in the hospitality suite at the NH Convention, and asked:

What Does Anonymity Mean to You?

Anonymity in AA is tied to the spiritual concept of giving God credit for our sobriety and developing our ability to become and remain humble.

Stephanie S. of Exeter Monday Night Group

Safety, comfort, trust!

Anonymous

Anonymity keeps us all equal; we can leave our titles behind and just be another alcoholic on the bus, thanking God for the ride. It's also what we hear in a meeting & who we see at the meeting, stays at the meeting.

Diane T. of District 9

I don't announce my alcoholism to the public, but I tell people at retreats, in my apartment building, at church committees, etc. If I am too public with my admission and I have a relapse, then I am a bad example of how AA works. Therefore, I try to keep the message up front and myself in the background. People who have heard me often talk to me about their connections with AA.

Anonymous

Anonymity is that very important connection that happens when one alcoholic in recovery has the spiritual province to share with humility with another, and who they are does not matter.

Bill

Who you see here, and what you say here, stays here.

Jan-Ann

I don't mind if people know I'm an alcoholic – I just want to be the one to tell them. Giving your name for something God-given is not a very good example of humility.

Gary A. of Hopkinton Day at a Time Group

Anonymity is a very important aspect of AA. What really makes it bad is that if no one knows your last name and their sobriety is in jeopardy – then who do they call if there no AA listing in the local phone book, like it was when I got sober in 1977? So many people saw me falling down drunk I have no qualms about breaking my anonymity.

Dick R. of Rochester Original Group

It means that I tell who I want, what I want and that's my choice. No one else has that privilege but me!

Lisa B. of District 13

Please don't announce from across a parking lot, mall, department store, grocery store or beach, "Hey, I know you! You going to the meeting tonight?" When you see me in public please don't ask me if I'm still sober. Respect my anonymity and right to privacy.

"Auntie" Steve of Steps to Serenity Group, Nashua

Anonymity to me means that I am in a safe environment and what I say won't be repeated outside the halls.

Laura D. of District 13

Anonymity is a gift. You don't have to know anything. The only thing you have to do is believe that it works if you work it.

Joseph D.

I think the phrase "Doesn't matter if you're from Yale or jail," sums it up for me – I'm an alcoholic with no other label, just trying to be a worker among workers and a friend among friends.

Christine G. of Colebrook Group

Anonymity: Principles not personalities. It's OK for me to say I am an alcoholic, but it's not OK for me to say you are. It allows me to share my experience, strength and hope with others and keep my opinions to myself. I firmly agree with Bill W.'s opinion on it. He takes the middle road. It's OK for people who need to know I am an alcoholic in order to help others. But the whole world need not know, especially if it will affect my job or well being.

Leo J. of the Sunday Recovery Group, Nashua

I don't care who knows – alcoholism is a disease, not a moral issue. Someone might need help. It is only anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

Susie B. of Derry

Not much. My employer and so forth know that I have a disease. Press and film is the only anonymity I am concerned of.

Anna of Derry

I appreciate being able to remain anonymous in the public eye because alcoholism is still seen by many as a character defect. As far as other alcoholics knowing, I don't mind.

John N. of Milford No-Name Group

What you see here, let it stay here. What you hear here, let it stay here.

Anonymous

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of this whole program. Many times I have run into our fellows on the street, malls and other places, and I hear, "Hi, I know you from AA." That makes me cringe but thank God for my recovery. I know one thing – I'm no longer ashamed of who I am! A grateful recovering member of AA. Love and tolerance of our fellows is our code.

Domenic D.

Let me come out on my own... I use my full name at meetings because I want my AA buddies to be able to reach me. I would hate to be in the hospital and have them ask for George the fat guy with glasses and a pipe.

George B. of Sat. Night Alive Group, Laconia

Do You Want to Know HOW It Works? Here's HOW, HOW, HOW, and HOW!

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous gives it an entire chapter (Chapter 5), and later on in the story section there is the following paragraph:

"The A.A. members who sponsored me told me in the beginning that I would not only find a way to live without having a drink, but that I would find a way to live without wanting to drink, if I would do these simple things. They said if you want to know how this program works, take the first word of your question – the "H" is for honesty, the "O" if for open-mindedness, and the "W" is for willingness; these our Big Book calls the essentials of recovery. They suggested that I study the A.A. book and try to take the Twelve Steps according to the explanation in the book, for it was their opinion that the application of these principles in our daily lives will get us sober and keep us sober. I believe this, and I believe too that it is equally impossible to practice these principles to the best of our ability, a day at a time, and still drink, for I don't think the two things are compatible."

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pages 549-50, *Freedom From Bondage*
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Recently I have heard a guy say that if you wanted to know HOW this program works just look at the Twelve Steps and see the words HONEST, OPEN-MINDED, and WILLINGNESS as they help to explain the steps.

1. HONEST look at our powerlessness over alcohol, and the unmanageability of our lives.
2. OPEN-MINDED to the fact that there exists a Power greater than ourselves that can restore us to sanity.
3. WILLINGNESS to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.
4. HONEST about the character defects that manifested themselves into our behaviors and actions.
5. OPEN-MINDED to the practice of admitting these faults to God, ourselves and another human being.
6. WILLINGNESS to ask for help in having these defects of character removed.
7. HONEST about having Him remove all our shortcomings.
8. OPEN-MINDED to the concept that list consisting of ALL those we have harmed indeed includes ALL, and anything less is a half measure.
9. WILLINGNESS to make direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. HONEST about the continual personal inventory which is part of the 'basis for daily living'.
11. OPEN-MINDED to the fact that through prayer and meditation our conscious contact with the God of our understanding will be greatly enhanced.
12. WILLINGNESS to share our hope, strength and experience by carrying the message to alcoholics, and find the 'joy of living' by practicing these principles in all our affairs.

For me, I've always known that Alcoholics Anonymous works. As I continue to live the Twelve Steps, which are suggested as a program of recovery, I become aware of just HOW it works.

*With a grateful heart,
Don H. of the First Light of Day Group in Manchester*

Working With Others

Imagine you're an alcoholic. Probably not hard for many of us. Now imagine that you a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and near where you live there are literally scores of meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, again not too tough. Now imagine that while you know they exist, you can't get to any of them! For most of us this would be worse than that nightmare where you want to run but your legs just won't move. Well, that's essentially what it's like if you are a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous and incarcerated in our state's prisons and jails.

You see, meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous are a privilege in prison, just as they are in the outside world. But more than that, they are a privilege that is only offered to inmates when someone on the outside is willing to help. Inmates can't just have their own meetings, they need us. The rules of prison don't allow for inmates to have any sort of private or semi-private gatherings because there are some who may try to use it as a place to plan "other" activities. It's simply a matter of security.

That in itself wouldn't be a problem if there were plenty of meetings available to inmates who are trying to stay sober, but that's not the case. Why aren't there plenty of meetings available to inmates? Because currently there are very few people available to bring a meeting in to our prisons or jails. Why don't we have enough volunteers? Well, some people simply don't know there is a the lack of volunteers. Others don't know how to go about getting involved.

Many times I hear AA members say that they never went that far down the scale and wouldn't know how to relate. To the latter I usually say that many inmates are serving time for exactly what we used to do every day, only they got caught and I didn't. I relate to them the same way I relate to anyone else in a meeting.

There is a desperate need for volunteers to bring meetings in to our prisons and jails all over the state. To get involved contact you district's Corrections Rep., your group's GSR, or the Area 43 Correction Chair to get more information. There are applications for the State Prisons available online at www.nhaa.net. To be cleared for the state prisons you need at least 1 year of sobriety, a desire to stay sober and 5 years outside of the criminal justice system (including probation and parole). If some of those requirements are out of your reach, there are many county jails with less stringent requirements that will need volunteers as well.

If everyone volunteered to take just one meeting a month into our prisons and jails we would have more volunteers than we knew what to do with. Instead we have more requests for meetings than we can fill. So get active! And remember: Practical experience shows that nothing will so much ensure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.

Dave R., your Area 43 Corrections Chair

AA Trivia Corner

Where & when was the first International Convention held?

In 1950, AA held its first International Convention at Cleveland, There, Dr. Bob made his last appearance and keyed his final talk to the need of keeping AA simple. Together with all present, he saw the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous enthusiastically adopted for the permanent use of the AA Fellowship through the world. (He died on November 16, 1950.)