



# Pipeline



A Publication of N1 Area 43 Assembly August 2005

## Belonging

from the April 1977 Grapevine

Group membership has become a very important part of my AA program. First, I am a member of AA; then, I am a member—an active one—in my group. To me, this means attending that group's regular meetings as often as possible, helping set up the room, attending business sessions, and being ready and willing to serve when asked. With all this, it's important that I watch out for the old ego drive and have the humility to step aside and share with others the privilege of serving.

It's also imperative that I listen, listen, and listen some more, and respect the views of others.

Often, a member asks, "How many groups can I belong to? How many offices can I hold in different groups?" The best plan for me is belonging to one group that I'm willing to be active in and holding only one office at a time in that group.

Though I belong to one group, I attend many different group meetings and enjoy sharing with them. At one time, I tried being an active member of several groups. I thought this would be good for me. But I talked it over with a few old-timers, and they turned me in the other direction.

As I look at it now, their advice was for my own good. For me, spreading myself over several groups was an expression of ego. I told myself, in what I then regarded as honesty, that I was doing it in the interests of "AA as a whole." Actually, I liked being thought of as a good AA worker. I also found that trying to be active in more than one group can cause complications that an alcoholic like me doesn't need. Trying to do a good job in one group is enough for this AA member.

Each group generally has its own viewpoints, and when you try to spread your views among those of several groups, you merely invite skeptical and disapproving reactions from other members. I believe we should share our experience with all groups, but after sharing we should sit back and let each group make its own use of our contribution.

Because belonging to one group means so much to me, I've encouraged other members to find a group and get involved. I know it takes time to settle down and choose a group you will be comfortable in, but it's well worth the effort. It may mean your sobriety.

**One Group,  
One Vote**

R. T. of Massena, NY

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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](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.

### September

*"Carrying the Message Through  
Living the Principles in Our Daily Lives"*

### October

*"Concept Nine: Leadership,  
and Responsibility for AA's Future"*

Service Office Hours M-F-10am-4pm•Sat.10am-2pm•622-6967•Fax 624-9507•e-mail [office@nhaa.mv.com](mailto:office@nhaa.mv.com)•Website-[www.nhaa.net](http://www.nhaa.net)

# Pipeline

A Publication of the  
NH Area 43 Assembly of  
Alcoholics Anonymous

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in subject line.

## 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. 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. 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 12  
Manchester Friday 7:00PM - 8:15PM HDCBX  
Ladies Nite Out, Elliot Hospital Dining Room, 955 Auburn St.
- Goffstown Monday 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM SD  
Young People's Meeting, Stark Hall at Congregational Church, 8 Main St.
- District 13  
Nashua Sunday/Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 6:30PM - 7:00PM  
Day by Day, Palace Pizza, 300 Main Street

### Meeting Changes

- District 13  
Nashua Monday 10:00AM - 11:15AM HSD  
New Hope Group, Congregational Church, Union Street  
*Moved from Utd Methodist Church, 10 Mt. Vernon St.*
- District 15  
Milton Sunday 7:00PM - 8:00 PM SD  
Milton AA Group, American Legion Post #63, Steeple Street  
*Moved from Community Parish House, South Main St.*

### Disbanded Meetings

- District 12  
Manchester Friday 8:00PM - 9:00PM  
Steps and Traditions, Tirrell House, 15-17 Brook St.
- District 14  
Exeter Sunday 9:00AM - 10:15AM  
Women's Sunday Serenity, Exeter Hospital, 10 Buzell Ave 3rd floor

## AA Trivia Corner

Who was presented with  
the one millionth copy  
of the Big Book?

*Richard Nixon! The 25 millionth  
copy of the Big Book was  
presented at the International  
Convention to Warden Jill  
Brown of San Quentin Prison, in  
honor of Warden Duffy and the  
alcoholic prisoners who started  
AA's first correctional meeting.*

## Subscribe to your Piping!

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 there are literature options for those with visual impairments? Many AA books are available in audio formats for those who cannot read, including *Alcoholics Anonymous* (the Big Book), *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *AA Comes of Age*, *Living Sober*, and *Inmate to Inmate*. Additionally, the Grapevine produces several audiotape and CD collections of stories from our meeting in print.

For those of us that are simply finding it harder to decipher small print, we offer large print versions of many AA books. The Grapevine has just added the large print *Best of Bill* to their product line, and we will be adding the large print *AA Service Manual* to our offering as soon as the 2005-06 version is printed. Additionally, books such as the Big Book, the 12 & 12, *Living Sober*, *Came to Believe*, *Daily Reflections* and *As Bill Sees It* are already in stock; also, the pamphlet *AA For the Older Alcoholic* is large print.

For blind alcoholics who read Braille, a few items are available in that format, including the Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *Daily Reflections*, and the pamphlets *This Is AA*, *Is AA for You?* and *44 Questions*. Braille items need to be special-ordered - please call us at 622-6967 for more information. You can also contact us by email at [office@nhaa.mv.com](mailto:office@nhaa.mv.com).

While you may not be in need of these items, please remember that audio, large print and Braille literature make great gifts for the visually-impaired alcoholic in your life, especially since these items are rarely available at meetings.

In August we're also introducing the summer/fall version of our statewide meeting list. Did you know there are hundreds of meeting information changes that happen each year around the state? Newcomers in your group will appreciate the more accurate meeting information in the new tan list.

We'd like to thank Geri F. of Candia and Cynthia R. of Manchester for their June volunteer work.

*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!

# June Donations THANK YOU!

Gateway To Sobriety	Alton
Alton Bay Group	Alton Bay
Barrington Group	Barrington
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Berlin Friday Night	Berlin
Primary Purpose	Concord
Tuesday Men's Group	Concord
Deerfield 12 Step Meeting	Deerfield
As Bill Sees It	Derry
Derry Original Group	Derry
Derry Women's Group	Derry
Saturday Nite Live	Derry
Spacetown	Derry
After Work Group	Dover
Meet Us Halfway	Dover
Monday Noon Group	Dover
Sunday Noon	Dover
Women In Dignity	Durham
As Bill Sees It	Exeter
Exeter Serenity	Exeter
Keep It In AA	Gonic
Hampstead Big Book	Hampstead
Eye Opener Group	Hampton
Mens Bare Facts & Brass Tacks	Hampton
Dry Dock #29	Kittery
What's Good About Today	Kittery
Serenity Seekers	Laconia
12 & 12 Step Group	Littleton
Out To Lunch Bunch	Littleton
Live And Let Live	Londonderry
Beech Street Big Book	Manchester
Courage To Change	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Mens 12 Step Intro	Manchester
North End Group	Manchester
Over 50 Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
Women Back To Basics	Manchester
Milford No-Name Group	Milford
Souhegan Sunrise	Milford
Milton AA Group	Milton
A New Day Group	Nashua
New Alternative	Nashua
Peculiar Mental Twists	Nashua
Slogan Group	Nashua
Sunday Nite Beginners	Nashua
There Is A Solution	Nashua
GVD Group	New London
New London Group	New London
Discussion Meeting	Newport
Friday Nite Live	Plaistow
Stepping Stones	Plaistow
Covered Bridge Group	Plymouth
Get Well Group	Plymouth
Happy Hour Group	Portsmouth
Rye Recovery	Rye
South Hampton Big Book	S. Hampton
Friday Night Beginners	Somersworth
Saturday Nite Live	Springfield
BAIGIS Group	Tamworth
Wolfeboro Group	Wolfeboro
Noontime Group	Wolfeboro Falls
Woodsville Area Group	Woodsville

## Today It Is The AA Message

My name is Rob L. and I have been in and out of the program six or seven times since 1984, when I had my first meeting in AA while in a military treatment center.

One thing I learned is that it doesn't get better the more you think you know about the disease. My drinking went nuclear my last time out – blackouts starting at my third beer, and still throwing up and falling down drunk like I was before my last time in AA. I often thought I was smarter than my disease, but of course I wasn't. The minute I picked it up it had me hook, line and sinker.

Today I am smarter in a way, because I decided 52 days ago to not pick up that first drink. I haven't needed to drink for 52 days and hopefully will not in the future. Today is all I have, and this 24 hours I decided not to pick up.

Today I have a good sponsor who doesn't push me but is right there. In my experience in AA before this I never had a sponsor and I never listened to suggestions. Today I do.

I'm on my sixth and seventh steps today and I'm moving at my pace. I don't expect to be cured right now. We have the rest of our lives to do the steps in the way they're supposed to be done according to whoever your sponsor is, and whatever his sponsor has done, and so on.

I have a lot of good friends in AA and some I drank with. It's a good program for those of us who have no quarrel about it being a spiritual program. I thank my Higher Power – I choose to call him God – every day. I constantly pray for his will to be done, through me or whatever way he chooses. I also thank him for my being sober and clean every day.

I often attend two meetings a day. For two of those meetings I am the coffeemaker so I set up, choose the speaker and make sure there's coffee. I'm hoping to get into more service work when I get more sobriety under my belt.

I want to thank you for reading this because you make it possible for me to stay sober and clean.

*Rob L. of Conway*



## Use of the Circle/Triangle Symbol

*A Reprint of GSO's Service Piece SM F-113*

On April 29, 1993, A.A. World Services Board distributed a statement advising that it would no longer oppose the use of the circle and triangle symbol on medallions, jewelry or other items.

For a number of years prior to that date, individuals and organizations, *other than A.A. entities*, used the circle and triangle symbol in connection with goods and services marketed primarily to A.A. members. When G.S.O. began to receive reports from the Fellowship regarding such misuse, along with related expressions of concern, A.A.W.S. responded with exhaustive, good faith efforts to prevent the continued, inappropriate use of its registered symbol. This policy was consistent with A.A.'s Sixth Tradition, the gist of which, as applied here, would urge that A.A. should not be associated with goods and services provided by sources outside of A.A.

However, the burden of increasingly costly and time-consuming efforts, including litigation, diverted resources from activities which related more directly to fulfilling A.A.'s primary purpose. At some point, then, A.A.W.S. decided that continued efforts to protect the circle and triangle mark could no longer be justified.

Consistent with A.A.W.S.' original purpose in protecting the circle and triangle mark, that is, its desire to avoid the appearance of association or affiliation with outside goods and services, A.A.W.S. phased out its own "official" use of the circle and triangle symbol on, or in connection with, its literature and other materials, and its services.

Note, however, that A.A.W.S. will continue to oppose any unauthorized use of the registered trademarks and service marks, "A.A." and "Alcoholics Anonymous," whether or not used in combination with the circle and triangle. The unauthorized use of other registered marks, including, "The Big Book," "Box 4-5-9," "The Grapevine," "GV," "A.A. Grapevine," "Box 1980," and "La Viña," will also be opposed by A.A.W.S. or the Grapevine, as appropriate.

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# 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 joined the Area 43 charter bus to Toronto and on the ride home asked:

## What was the best part about going to the International Convention?

This was my first International, and so of course I want to say that it was all the best part. If I could convey one thought though it would be this: From the moment that we got to the Convention Center the feeling was "Welcome. You are needed, wanted and loved." The enthusiasm of the host city was infectious and the power was palpable in the halls. I can say that I am hooked!

*Cheryl of the Bedford How To 12 & 12 Group*

I was overwhelmed by the sheer power of being one in a group of 60,000 recovering, sober alcoholics. And yet the most memorable moments were the one-on-one encounters with people from all around the planet. I came away with a strengthened commitment to action and service.

*Betsy of the Pass It On Group in Bedford*

The bonding of friendships with my friends that I traveled with was beautiful. Our shared experience with this phenomenal convention is something that will continue to add to our growth as women!

*Laura R. of the Friday Night Group in Keene*

It was great to be with 50,000+ people with the same problem I have.

*Bob F. of the Tuesday Night Living Sober Group in Warren*

This was our third International – we were infected in San Diego in 1995. The volunteers were amazing in Toronto. The best for me continued to be the power of so many coming together in the solution; to have a moment so silent you could hear a pin drop in a stadium of 60,000; the swell of voices raised in the Serenity Prayer; and new friends made one AA talking to another, one at a time.

*Diane T. of the Stools & Bottles Group in Pelham*

The demonstration of "practicing these principles in all our affairs": Sunday morning my wallet was left in a taxi. My driver's license, ATM card and all of my money was gone. A lovely couple on this bus learned of my situation, comforted me when I was feeling desperate and foolish, and made sure I had something to eat. It is hard for me to accept help, but I was defeated. They were responsible. I thank God for them.

*Barbara S. of the Park Street Group in Boston MA*

The theme "I Am Responsible" is great. The Conference including Toronto was very enjoyable. I'm glad I attended and would do it again in 2010.

*Joe I. of Keene*

I loved the spiritual connectedness between tens of thousands of people and the theme being related to our accountability to one another for our survival. What an experience!

*Marj W.*

Seeing the diversity of this program. No matter our differences, language, custom, nationality, race, or gender, the universal unity of this program is amazing. The power of 164 pages to save millions of lives around the world for 70 years! I am responsible.

*Joey J.-D. of the Methuen Primary Purpose Group in MA*

Sitting in a baseball stadium with close to 60,000 sober alcoholics and friends of AA was moving. I learned a new level of gratitude when I heard about the struggles that those in other countries go through to get to or have a meeting. In India women don't go to meetings because of the stigma in their society. Before the Berlin Wall came down, people secretly held meetings.

*Heather D.*

Did you know women in India are discouraged from attending AA? It's true! We are fortunate to be able to attend meetings in our country or to access recovery on-line. There are people in the world who are not so fortunate. Also, I was reminded to turn my will over every day. I'm grateful for the experience of others and for the renewed energy I gained from being with over 40,000 other alcoholics from around the world. Laughter, tears, friendship, fellowship. Don't miss the next one in San Antonio in 2010! I am responsible!

*Kate M. of the Friday Night Meeting in Keene*

The fellowship and constant reinforcement of the Traditions.

*Bob D. of the Salisbury Sunday Morning Men's Group in MA*

This was my first convention and I absolutely loved it. For me, the best part was opening night – the flag ceremony and the incredible speakers, each one with a powerful message. Seeing that many sober alcoholics in one place was very moving. What I took home with me is the importance of service and the fact that I am responsible.

*Cathy T. of Hooksett*

My first international convention – there's no "best part." It's a "you had to be there" experience. It did prove to me that any difficult task can be handled when a group of volunteers get together.

*Jerry J. of the Beech Street Big Book Step Study Group*

AA and my Higher Power have afforded me many years of sobriety and the last two International Conventions which were truly moving experiences. Hopefully I will be around for a few more. While attending I have met some amazing friends and have attended some wonderful workshops. The old-timers meeting was awesome.

*Doug F. of the Sunday Serenity and Bedford How To 12 & 12 Groups*

This was my second International Convention. I hope I am around for the next one. For me I love to listen to speakers from all over the world. Awesome! I get more than I can handle in goose bumps. I always want to stay green so I can keep on learning. I got a college course in one week-end and it was all from the fellowship and free.

*Gerri F. of the Sunday Serenity and Bedford How To 12 & 12 Groups*

The fellowship on the bus to and from, and also the old-timers meeting.

*Tom O. of the On Awakening Group in Keene*

I think the best word to sum up my experience at this International Convention is OPTIONS. Just as we have many options at home to run our programs, so did we decide how to spend our time in Toronto. I went to a meeting in Finnish and one on minorities. I took a streetcar ride through Chinatown and saw flags of 90 nations of the world displayed at once. And I met as many AAs as I had strength and time to. Around each corner were a whole new range of options, I just had to open my heart and let go.

*Cynthia R. of the Women's Daytime Group in Manchester*

Incredible, spiritual connection with 60,000 AA's from 24 hours sobriety to 63 years, all with a primary purpose. I am pleased to belong.

*Linda C. of the Tuesday Noon Living Sober Group in Claremont*

What impressed me the most was looking around the stadium at 40 to 50 thousand people from countries all over the world – all in recovery! It brought tears to my eyes and filled me with gratitude and joy. I also realized that I had to be more conscious of whenever someone reaches out for help. I am responsible. That includes those behind bars and especially women in countries like India and on Native American reservations. Thank you AA and thank you Toronto!

*Phoebe C. of the Forty Plus Meeting in Newcastle*

Shaking hands, smiling faces, and the love of the Fellowship. This program works! I saw action at the Convention. It made me realize that I am responsible for the suffering alcoholic. Thank you AA!

*Sharon W. of the St. Raphael's Group in Kittery ME*

Being with 60,000 AAs in one place – the feeling of love and gratitude was overwhelming. I am also very glad I chose to go on the bus. I made many new friends.

*Pat T. of the B & M Honesty and Let's Get Together Groups*

For me, it was when they had some of the youngest AA members at the convention introduce the old-timers. Seeing a dozen teenagers and pre-teens enthusiastically declare, "I am responsible" was exciting, and learning that they had as little as one day's sobriety, and as much as seven and a half years, reinforced the fact that AA works!

*Karen S. of the Courage to Change Group in Manchester*

How can you explain an International Convention? It's 60,000 people, it's friendship with people you've never met, it's smiling faces and hugs and handshakes. It is the epitome of joyous, happy and free. It IS "I Am Responsible."

*Paul S. of the Beech Street Big Book Step Study Group*