



Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly September 2005

The Only Big Book

In my early sobriety I thought that "Twelfth Step work" specifically described the one-on-one interaction between a long-time AA member and a newcomer, mainly through sponsorship or Twelfth Step calls. This was one of those assumptions that was hard for me to shake. My sponsor insisted that we were each practicing the Twelfth Step when we made coffee for a meeting, when we shared our experience, strength and hope with another, and even when we just showed up at a meeting and respectfully listened to other members. I was stubborn, I guess - I didn't believe my sponsor and still put Step 12 in a nicely wrapped little box.

Not to say I didn't work it. I went on Twelfth Step calls, just like in the old days, right to people's homes. My sponsor made sure I was involved in this very early on, and I feel lucky to have the experience of visiting drunks who are still, well, drunk. Many of my contemporaries have never been on such a call. I think a lot of AAs today only know of Twelfth Step work like speaking in prisons or treatment centers.

Meanwhile, I had rented a room in a house with a friend and her teenaged son, who I'll call Justin. My sobriety was moving along, and while I hadn't any material gains in my life (still no car, working a little factory job, scraping by the best I could), I was generally pretty happy. I had a lot of friends, both in AA and in other organizations I belonged to. I did volunteer work. I was mending my relationship with my brother, and paying off some old debts. My writing (my passion) was getting published, and things were going well.

My friend was working three jobs to pay her bills, as her ex was not in the picture whatsoever. Justin played lacrosse in school, and my friend couldn't go to the games because of her work schedule. I knew he was kind of bummed about it, and I'm a sports fan, so I thought I'd start going to cheer him on. It meant a lot to him to have someone in the stands, and I enjoyed it too. I didn't do it to win anyone's praise; I did it simply because I'd learned that through giving I am relieved of the bondage of self - one of the things I've learned in AA.

In addition to going to his events, I took him to a couple of college games, hung out with him a bit, and was just generally

there for this kid. We could talk, and I came to care about him like a younger brother. Sometimes he would ask me about my sobriety - didn't I ever want to drink just a little? Surely one wouldn't hurt me, he claimed. I tried to explain a little bit about the disease. I don't want "one"; I want to be drunk or it's pointless. I'm not the same kind of person when I drink, or when I'm coming off a drunk. I get antisocial, sometimes downright cruel. I have a violent temper. I am unpredictable. It's OK that other people drink, but it's not good for me, I'd tell him.

So Justin watched me, and he thought I was pretty cool - one heck of a compliment coming from a teenager. When I was in high school the only "cool" adults were the ones that would buy for me, and I wasn't buying for Justin. I knew he drank, but so do a lot of other teenagers. I really didn't think too much about it. I just went about living my life, cleaning up my past, and being a contributing member of my community.

Fast-forward a couple of years. Financially things were a bit better and I'd moved into a bigger place. I was still in touch with Justin's mom, but he had disappeared. His drinking had taken off, and my only "contact" with Justin was reading about some of his antics in the newspaper. I'd pray for him, but even his mother no longer knew where he lived.

And then Justin called. Crying, he said, "Karen, I'm in trouble, and it's all my drinking. I don't want to be doing this anymore. What do I do?"

So I took Justin to his first AA meeting, and introduced him to some men who could talk to him. Then I watched Justin get sober.

That's when I finally understood what my sponsor had been telling me about our Twelfth Step. We never know when God is using us to carry the message. I've heard that we need to be careful to walk the walk, not just for ourselves but because we may be the only Big Book someone else ever sees. Just through right-living, we can carry the message of hope to someone who needs it. How awesome is that?

Karen S. of Manchester

Carrying the Message Through Living the Principles in Our Daily Lives

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.

October

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

November

"Service in Our Home Group: An Expression of Gratitude"

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E-mail the Pipeline at
froggyk@netscape.com.
Please put "For Pipeline"
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.

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Group Information

New Groups

District 7

Peterborough Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7:00AM - 8:00AM CD
Weekday Wake-Up, Union Congregational Church, 33 Concord Street
Monday meeting is new; Wednesday and Friday still meet too.

District 8

Pembroke Thursday 6:00PM - 7:15PM CD
Women Living in the Solution, First Congr. Church, 301 Pembroke Street

District 11

Center Harbor Tuesday 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM XD
Women's Walking the Walk, Ctr Harbor Christian Church, Bean Road
Group reactivated.

District 18

Newport Tuesday 6:00PM - 7:00PM HB
Happy Hour BB Study, Millies Place, Shopping Plaza, John Stark Hwy

District 21

Canaan Saturday 7:30PM - 8:45PM CX
Canaan Sat Night AA 12 Step, Utd Methodist Church, US Rte 4, Main Street

Meeting Changes

District 7

Peterborough Saturday 7:00PM - 8:00PM SH
Saturday Night Live, Monadnock Community Hospital, Old Street Rd
Used to meet 8 - 9.

District 11

Franklin Sunday 7:30PM - 9:00PM HCXD
Franklin 12 & 12 Group, Franklin Regional Hospital, 15 Aiken Avenue
Now a closed meeting.

District 13

Nashua Friday 7:30PM - 9:00PM SD
Young Peoples AA, Nashua YMCA, 17 Prospect Street
Moved from First Baptist Church. Speaker discussion format added.

District 14

Exeter Sunday 9:00AM - 10:15AM HSDC
Women's Sunday Serenity, Exeter Hospital, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Erroneously listed as disbanded in August Pipeline.

District 18

Charlestown Tuesday 8:00PM - 9:00PM SD
Charlestown Group, Congregational Church, Main Street
Not a smoking meeting.

Disbanded Meetings

District 16

Tuftonboro Friday 5:00 PM - 6:00PM
Quitting Time, United Methodist Church, Rte 171, 4 Corners
Friday disbanded only; Tuesday meeting still active.

District 14

Portsmouth Thursday 6:30PM - 8:00PM
Women's Step Meeting, 477 State Street



Greetings From Your Service Office

We are sad to announce that Ingrid, customer service diva, has departed the office to take a full-time position elsewhere. Ingrid had worked in your Service Office for four years, and we will miss her good cheer, her service savvy, and her great hugs!

We heartily welcome Amy W. to the Service Office staff. Amy hails from District 8 (Concord), where she gratefully serves as the District Secretary and Registrar. She has been sober since 1998. She is active in the Northwood Living Hope Group and attends meetings in the Concord area. She says that AA has given her a world of opportunities to learn and grow each day and she tries to show newcomers that anything is possible if you don't pick up the first drink and work the program each day. Amy knows that Ingrid will be missed by all, but hopes that she can bring her own personality and experience to the office.

The 2006 Grapevine calendars and pocket planners have arrived! The wall calendar includes prize-winning photography by AA members, with a spiritual quotation for each month. This year the calendars are tri-lingual, in English, Spanish and French. The quotations are discreet enough so that you place the calendar at your desk without breaking your anonymity. Pocket planners also are tri-lingual with the same quotations. Wall calendars are \$7 each; pocket planners are \$4. They make great gifts or raffle prizes!

We'd like to thank Geri F. of Candia, Cynthia and Dennis R. of Manchester and Joyce C. of Mont Vernon for volunteering in the office; and Ron of Enfield for the print of the Wilson House.

In grateful service, Karen, Mary Anne and Amy

Manchester Young People Need Your Help

The Young People's Meeting in Manchester needs some established AA members to lead the way. There are eight to ten kids each week mostly from an outpatient program at the facility, and sometimes no outside members. This AA meeting is on Wednesday nights from 7 - 8 pm at the Child and Family Services Building, 404 Chestnut Street, on the second floor. Please come!

Subscribe to your Pipeline!

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!

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!

July Donations THANK YOU!

Alton Bay Group	Alton Bay
How To 12 & 12	Bedford
Friday Nite Group	Berlin
Newfound Lake Group	Bristol
Coming Alive Group	Canterbury
Monday Nite Step	Concord
As Bill Sees It	Concord
New Womens Step Group	Concord
Derry Original Group	Derry
Young At Heart	Derry
Saturday Nite Live	Derry
Half & Half Group	Dover
Saturday Nite Commitment	Dover
Wednesday Noon Group	Dover
Durham Original Group	Durham
Amethyst 12 & 12	Epping
Women's Sunday Serenity	Exeter
Exeter Big Book	Exeter
Original Group Of AA	Fitzwilliam
Gilford Sunday Original	Gilford
Hampstead Angels	Hampstead
Saturday Morning AA	Hampstead
Stepping Stones	Hampton
Way Out Group	Hampton
Keene Thursday Night Step	Keene
On Awakening	Keene
Kittery Original	Kittery
What's Good About Today	Kittery
Up Close & Personal	Laconia
Friday Nite Men's	Laconia
Reflection On Thursday	Laconia
As Bill Sees It	Laconia
Pathway To Sobriety	Manch
Queen City Group	Manchester
Sunday Serenity	Manchester
First Light Of Day	Manchester
Womens Back To Basics	Manchester
Free At Last	Manchester
Melvin Village Group	Melvin Village
B&M Freedom Group	Merrimack
Souhegan Sunrise	Milford
Living Sober Group	N.Conway
Good Shepherd Group	Nashua
Terrace Group	Nashua
Early Bird Group	Nashua
Our Great Hope	Nashua
Old Timers K.I.S.	New London
Gosh Port	Newport
12 Step Women's Group	Pelham
Young At Heart Peoples Group	Penacook
Our Town Group	Peterborough
Women's Meeting	Plymouth
Reborn Group	Portsmouth
Early Birds Group	Portsmouth
12 & 12 BYOB	Portsmouth
Gay Together In Sobriety	Portsmouth
Sunday Morning Daybreak	Portsmouth
Faith Group	Portsmouth
No Name Group	Portsmouth
Rochester Friday Nite	Rochester
Rochester Original	Rochester



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 simply went to a meeting this month and asked:

Other than not drinking, what is one way you live your life differently today?

When I stopped drinking, I began to feel freedom – freedom from many of my old behaviors, especially fear. It's taken time to live without so much fear in my life. I know that I'm making progress because I've noticed that there is less anger in my life and much more hope. The program allows me to work on having less fear and more love in my life. I believe that this is why "I'm still coming" after nearly twelve years of sobriety.

Anonymous

When I drank, life was always about me. My need to get that next drink, or feed my ego, or satisfy whatever other "need" that I had took priority over almost everything else. Today it is a pleasure for me to do what I can to help another person, and by doing that I have finally become part of something greater than myself.

Dave of the Courage to Change Group

Other than not drinking, the one way that I live my life differently today is that I don't spend as much time being pre-occupied with my "needs" today, like I used to when I thought I was the victim in any situation. Somewhere in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous it says that, "In the program we are taught that difference between our wants which are never satisfied and our needs which are always provided for," and I believe that it has done just that for me. Getting "outside of myself" as the oldtimers would say was one of the ways that freed me from the bondage of self. Today, I don't have enough time in any given day to do all the things that I'd like to do, and that is OK. God has blessed me with a GREAT fellowship called Alcoholics Anonymous, so I know that my needs are always being provided for.

Rick T. of the Joy of Living Group

I must say that today I actually find myself thinking of others more than any other time in my life. AA has taught me that to be others-centered vs. self-centered will set me free.

Anonymous

I constantly look around to see what I can do for others instead of what I can do for myself.

Anonymous

I think the biggest change is that I pretty much quit being an @\$*?&. I've been sober 75 days and sometimes my old self peeks through. But pretty much I have my temper under control.

Jeff of the First Light of Day Group in Manchester

The difference in my life today is I can see, hear, feel, touch and think a lot clearer every day, and make appropriate decisions for my next step into tomorrow.

Kevin C.R. of the Happy Hour EDI Group in W. Palm Beach FL

Basically, I'm living life the way that it's meant to be lived – and grateful for every minute that I have with people that I love and that love me.

Jane of the BC High Group in Boston

I used to lie a lot, and today I'm pretty committed to telling the truth. I'm not perfect at it, but geesh, I used to lie about stuff I didn't even need to lie about. It's nice to not have to keep my stories straight.

Anonymous

I am actually there for my family and my family is there for me. I do more things with my friends and feel good when I am with them.

Anonymous

Origins of the Beginners Big Book Group in Derry

About ten years ago there was no organized Big Book meeting in the Derry area. Robin F. and Fred C. recognized the need for one, and approached the Friendship Center. There was a Wednesday noon slot open. However, we were encouraged to meet at home for six months in order to make sure that we would stick together. This we did, and approached the Center again. We really struggled for a couple of years. Today, we just struggle; but we pay our rent, buy books and coffee! And we have good sobriety!

written by Fred C., submitted by Constance L. of Derry

The New AA

I like the new AA – today's brand. Maybe I am a bleeding deacon or just an old fart.

Today's AA is so much easier. You don't have to get involved to get rewards.

When I first joined AA (many moons ago) I always wanted to be the greeter, the secretary, the treasurer, the chairperson, and (oh yeah) the speaker. For some strange reason I never got those jobs. I felt rejected: *They don't want me!* When I became a little more clear-headed, gee, I noticed something. *They were giving those jobs to the people who had worked for them* – the people who came early, set up chairs, made coffee, or even showed up every week (not just once a month to vote at group conscience when they felt we should let them speak). Officers were the people that were doing the grunt work. I didn't set up chairs, but now some officers don't even show up! This AA is so much easier, and it's so much easier to get recognized.

When I first started there were no chips. Medallions for years, but no chips. Then we just got poker chips for one, three, six and nine months. The new medallions are great, with all those great colors. I go get them for my home group, no charge. It's my favorite thing to do in AA. The hope and smiles on the newcomers faces – that's the greatest gift I have ever received in sobriety (staying sober myself not included). It's nice that whenever your day is you can get one at any group anytime. That's a good thing. Some newcomers look forward to that progress.

I'm not big on collecting medallions myself. I do it because I was told from a newcomer how much inspiration it gave them – how it helped them strive for something. I know there is more to strive for, but when you're new use whatever you can to keep coming.

Again I like the new way AA gives out medallions. Used to be you got it from your home group: a group where you showed up every week; a group you worked at; a group you held a job at. Maybe you were just there in support every week you could be. Today's AA is just the easier softer way. It's your anniversary, so you just show up and expect a medallion. After all, you stayed sober and you're such a power of example! You're a great example for the newcomer. (The newcomer's our primary purpose, right?) We don't see you for a year, or maybe just once a month. "I show up at that group whenever I can. After all, I have a life, family, jobs and things." Would you have these things if not for AA? Most groups' conscience says "Let us know ahead of time to get medallions for our members," but no, you want your medallion today! "Doesn't one of our traditions say I'm a member if I say I am?"

So I say hurray for the new softer AA. I wish it been around when I started.

"An Old AA Fart"

PO Box 1980: Singleness of Purpose

from the August 1993 Grapevine

I recently completed the Eighth Step and have decided that my first amends should be to Alcoholics Anonymous itself, which I believe I have harmed to some extent by violating its singleness of purpose.

I used to identify myself as an alcoholic and an addict. I do not anymore because I now believe other addictions are irrelevant at AA meetings. But, aside from that, I also used to insist on talking about my other addictions beyond what was necessary to relate them to alcohol. I justified this by saying that alcohol was just another drug and so it was unfair to expect me not to talk about all my addictions. And refused to attend any other fellowship because I claimed to prefer the wisdom and sobriety in AA.

I realize now how rude and self-centered this position was. It is not a question of what is fair or whether alcohol is just another drug. The Traditions and primary purpose of AA are what they are whether I agree with them or not.

In the past, when I was active, I often had dinner at the homes of people who did not use drugs, but who did drink. I never considered insisting that I had the right to smoke a joint at their dinner table because they were drinking wine. And imagine if I had, and then added insult to injury by saying: "And not only do I have a right to use any drug I want to around here if you're going to drink, but I'm going to keep coming back and I'm going to keep using any drug I want to in your home because I like the food you serve and your company better than the food and company I find in the homes of my drug addict friends. And I have a right to do this because all drugs are the same and I don't care what the rules or customs of your home are."

Such a gross abuse of hospitality sounds preposterous, but that is essentially what I was doing by insisting that I had a right to violate AA's singleness of purpose. I was abusing the hospitality of this Fellowship.

This is not an apology. I was too sick to realize how selfishly I was acting, and a mere apology is not necessarily an amends. I am hoping to amend the harm I did by stating clearly what I did, for the benefit of others, and, further, by not doing it again.

H. D. of New Medford, NJ

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AA Trivia Corner

What importance does the Mayflower Hotel play in AA's beginnings?

The Mayflower is the hotel that Bill W. found himself while in Akron in May 1935. He felt enticed by the gaiety in the bar, and instead called a number of local churches, searching for another alcoholic to talk to. This led to his meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of AA.