

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 NHI Area 43 Assembly

June 2008

AA celebrates 73rd birthday June 10th

How did AA begin?

One month after meeting Bill Wilson, Dr. Robert "Bob" Smith had his last drink and that date, June 10, 1935, is the official birthdate of Alcoholics Anonymous. But just how did this 12-step program, which has helped millions of people to overcome alcoholism begin?

Following is the history of AA's beginning, according to a September 1948 Grapevine article.

The story of Alcoholics Anonymous is the story of two men, Bill W. of New York and Dr. Bob of Akron, Ohio. This story of their personal struggles for personal sobriety are known to most.

After a long and disastrous alcoholic history, both Bill W. and Dr. Bob were introduced to the Oxford Group.

Dr. Bob became interested in 1933 upon his release from a sanitarium. Prior to his meeting with Bill in 1935, he made every attempt to obtain sobriety, but seemed unsuccessful in spite of his efforts.

Bill's first contact with the Oxford Group came during the winter of 1934, when a childhood friend, also an alcoholic, came to his home - sober.

This friend impressed upon Bill the thought that he could remain sober only if he helped someone else. This Bill tried, but after six discouraging months, he had not dried up one drunk - except himself!

With his new sobriety came a business venture which brought him to Akron, Ohio. The business venture failed and he was again faced with the comforting thought that he could be a success, for a brief time, with a bottle of gin. It was at this low point that he prayed - and promptly set out to find another alcoholic.

He contacted an Akron minister who gave him a list of members of the Oxford Group and by sheer accident he called a family who knew an alcoholic who was in need of help. A meeting for the two was arranged for the next day. So it was that on Mother's Day, 1935, Bill W. met Dr. Bob.

The message Bill brought was a simple one, Faith without works is dead. Show me your faith, by my works I will show you mine. With the exception of one short binge, Dr. Bob has never had another drink.

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In order to maintain his own sobriety, Dr. Bob had to find someone to help. With Bill W. he went to an Akron hospital and found Bill D., who has never had another drink since that time.

By the summer of 1936, a group of five men were holding morning meetings in the kitchen of one of the members.

Bill had remained in Akron until October 1935 when he returned to New York and began working day and night to help other alcoholics recover.

In the early beginning these recovered alcoholics were in close association with the Oxford Group, but in 1937 all relations between them had ended. This was the beginning of the new and independent group working only for the recovery of alcoholics, which was to become Alcoholics Anonymous. In December 1937, Bill W. arranged an appointment with Mr. W.S. Richardson. He told his story to Mr. Richardson and was evidently so sincere and convincing that Mr. Richardson called on three of his friends for consultation. A dinner meeting was arranged and Bill again told the story to the three friends, Mr. Albert Scott, Mr. A. Leroy Chipman and Mr. Frank B. Amose.

Present at this meeting were two other non-alcoholics, Dr. W.D. Silkworth and Dr. L.V. Strong and six alcoholics from the New York area and Akron, Ohio.

Following this meeting plans for the beginning of the movement were very cautiously and carefully weighed. Emphasis was placed on the desires of the founders to keep this movement entirely apart from any religious organization or cult. Stress was laid on the fact that the movement which was to become Alcoholics Anonymous had no connection whatever with any religious denomination, the Oxford Group, or any other group or movement of this character.

It was thought that perhaps a hospital or rest home near Akron would be advisable and it was with this thought in mind that Mr. Amos was asked to visit Akron and make a careful survey of the situation there. The result of this survey by Mr. Amos caused him to report that the work

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Pipeline

A publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

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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 Hotline
1-800-593-3300

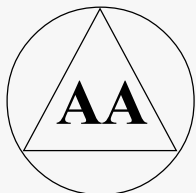


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Group Information

New Groups

District 12

Manchester Saturday 7:30 PM 9:00 PM 642977 HDSX
Living-Loving -Sharing 12 Steps New Horizon Shelter, 199 Manchester St.

District 15

Dover Friday 5:30 PM 6:30 PM T274 HD
The Living Sober Group The Triangle Club, 120 Broadway

Disbanded Meetings

District 19

Keene Saturday 7:00 PM 8:30 PM 169208
Pink Triangle Group 69 Washington St

To drink or not to drink - Do I have a choice?

In Step One we must admit that we are powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable. In other words, we no longer had a choice in the matter. Choice is defined in the dictionary as "the act or instance of choosing; selection." Powerless is defined as "being unable to produce an effect; lacking power to act, helpless."

If you are an alcoholic and think you had or still have a choice when it comes to drinking, consider these passages from AA literature.

The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so called will power becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense again the first drink. *Alcoholics Anonymous Page 24.*

We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery. The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed. We

alcoholics are men and women who have lost the ability to control our drinking. We know that no real alcoholic *ever* recovers control. - *Alcoholics Anonymous- Page 30.*

Whether such a person can quit upon a nonspiritual basis depends upon the extent to which he had already lost the power to choose whether he will drink or not. Many of us felt that we had plenty of character. There was a tremendous urge to cease forever, yet we found it impossible. Our sponsors declared that we were the victims of a mental obsession so subtly powerful that no amount of human willpower could break it. *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions Page 22.*

My powerlessness over alcohol does not cease when I quit drinking. In sobriety I still have no choice I can't drink. The choice I do have is to pick up and use the kit of spiritual tools. *(Alcoholics Anonymous Page 25).* When I do that my Higher Power relieves me of my lack of choice and keeps me sober one more day. If I could choose not to pick up a drink today, where then would be my need for AA or a Higher Power? - *Daily Reflections- Page 16.*

Submitted by Ron P.

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!

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

LIVING SOBER GROUP
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BERLIN GROUP
NEWFOUND LAKE GRP
BROOKLINE BIG BOOK
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STEP SISTERS
SAT MEN S STEP GROUP
SUNDAY AM BEGINNERS
HAPPY HOUR GROUP
BYOC
KEEP IT SIMPLE BEG
DERRY ORIGINAL GROUP
DERRY WOMEN S GROUP
RESURRECTION GROUP
CLEAN SWEEP GROUP
DOVER ORIGINAL
AMETHYST 12 & 12 GROUP
LIVING BY THE BOOK
SIMPLY GRATEFUL
EXETER SERENITY
WOMEN IN NEED OF SOBRIETY
SATURDAY MORNING AA
BRING YOUR OWN BOOK
EYE OPENER GROUP
JAFFREY BEGINNER S
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP
TOAD GROUP
ON AWAKENING
KINGSTON MEN S GROUP
BEGINNERS AWARENESS
MONDAY BB MEETING
LEE DISCUSSION GROUP
12 & 12 STEP GROUP
FIRST LIGHT OF DAY
THERE IS A SOLUTION
MENS STEP INTRO
ROUND ROBIN GRP
QUEEN CITY GROUP
NORTH END GROUP
SUNDAY SERENITY
KEEP IT SIMPLE
YOUNG AT HEART
FREE AT LAST
SUNDAY MORNING GROUP
MILTON AA GROUP
FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP
SOBER AND FREE
SO NASHUA TODAY GROUP
OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH
REMEMBER WHEN GROUP
EARLY BIRD GROUP
A NEW DAY GROUP
NEW ALTERNATIVE
WOMEN STEPPING UP
BACK TO BASICS

ANDOVER
ASHLAND
BERLIN
BRISTOL
BROOKLINE
CLAREMONT
COLEBROOK
CONCORD
CONCORD
CONCORD
CONCORD
CONWAY
DERRY
DERRY
DOVER
DOVER
DOVER
EPPING
EPPING
EPSOM
EXETER
GONIC
HAMPSTEAD
HAMPTON
HAMPTON
JAFFREY
KEENE
KEENE
KEENE
KEENE
KINGSTON
LACONIA
LACONIA
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Thank You!

POSITIVE START
DISCUSSION MEETING
GOSH PORT
PLAISTOW AFTER SCHOOL
FRIDAY NITE LIVE
GOOD MORN PORTSMOUTH
SUN MORNING DAYBREAK
FRESH START BEG MTG
PORTS ORIGINAL GRP
EARLY BIRDS GROUP
EYEOPENER GROUP
WING DING GROUP
BRING YOUR OWN BOOK
RINDGE ORIGINAL STEP MTG
HOPEFUL-HELPFUL-GRATEFUL
PEACE OF MIND
STRATHAM BIG BOOK
TILTON-FRANKLIN GROUP
WARNER GROUP
LIVING SOBER GROUP
SUNDAY MORNING SERENITY
COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

NEW LONDON
NEWPORT
NEWPORT
PLAISTOW
PLAISTOW
PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
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PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
RINDGE
SALEM
SALEM
STRATHAM
TILTON
WARNER
WARREN
WINDHAM
WOLFEBORO

Greetings from Your Service Office

Some alcoholics, particularly those of us who are age 40 and older, find large-print books very useful, while others, such as those who have difficulty reading, depend on CDs to hear the AA message between meetings. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services and the Grapevine are doing their best to cater to these needs.

The newest addition to the large-print family is *The Language of the Heart*, for \$12.95. We also carry in large print the Big Book, the 12 & 12, *Living Sober*, *Came to Believe*, *As Bill Sees It*, and *Daily Reflections*.

For those looking to listen to the message, we've just added *Living Sober* on CD to our inventory. This Grapevine CD joins an assortment of others, including ones on sponsorship, spirituality, working the program, using the 12 Traditions, and more. All Grapevine CDs are just \$10. There are some groups that report that they've started their own lending library of CDs. It is such a good way to share the message.

If you sponsor someone who could use one of these items, bring them to the Service Office! We'd love to meet you and your AA friends.

Looking forward, we see a new edition of the statewide meeting list coming out in July. Do you have your new meeting up and running yet? Or, has your group made

Please turn to Page 4 - Service Office

The 12 Steps most of us came into AA with

1. I decided that I could handle my drinking problem if other people would just quit trying to run my life.
2. I firmly believed that there was no greater power than myself and anyone who said so was stupid.
3. I made a decision to remove my will and my life from God, who didn't understand me anyhow.
4. I made a searching and thorough moral inventory of everyone I knew so they couldn't fool me and take advantage of my good nature,
5. I sought those people out and tried to get them to admit to me the exact nature of their wrongs.
6. I became willing to help these people get rid of these defects of character.
7. I was humble enough to ask these people to get rid of their character defects.
8. I kept a list of all the people who I thought had harmed me and patiently plotted how to get even with them.
9. I got even with those people whenever possible except when to do so would get me into trouble.
10. I continued to take everyone else's inventory and when they were wrong, promptly made them admit it.
11. Sought through concentration of my will power to get God to see that my ideas were best and he ought to give me the power to carry them out.
12. Having maintained myself badly for years through these steps, I can thoroughly recommend them to others who don't want to know the rewards of serenity, but wish to be left alone to practice this type of destructiveness in everything they do for the rest of their miserable lives.

Why go to AA?

If you are spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why go to AA? An AA goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to AA every week.

"I've gone for 30 years now", "he wrote," "and in that time I have heard something like 23,000 experiences over and over. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the AA people are wasting theirs by talking at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to AA for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Service Office——Continued from Page 3

changes that should be reflected in the next Meeting List? If the answer is yes, then June is the month to send those changes to the Service Office. We'll be going to press with the summer edition of the NH state meeting list in July, so if you see a change that should be made, give us a call or an email with the information.

Thank you to Geri F. of Candia, Vi G. and Lin B. for their help in the office during May

In grateful service,

Mary Anne and Ingrid

AA's beginnings——Continued from Page 1

being done in Akron was short of miraculous and that continued and deserved financial support should be given. As a result, this would keep the work going in Akron until May 1, 1939.

This contribution took care of the minimum needs of the Akron work and it daily became clear that the situation in Metropolitan New York also required support.

Such financial help as had been given thus far had come from the meager funds of other alcoholics. Plans were made during the Spring of 1938 to start a campaign among people who it was believed would be interested in this movement. It was also decided at this time to publish a book which would serve as a textbook for those seeking rehabilitation through the spiritual approach.

With these plans in mind and with the long range view of carrying on whatever was wise and necessary to promote this case, it was decided to form an unincorporated, non-profit organization under the laws of the State of New York. This organization would have general supervision of the work, and could accept such contributions which might be made.

Upon advice of attorneys and after considerable and thorough consultation with alcoholics and the interested non-alcoholics, it was decided to form what is known as a trust. The legal forms were drawn up and on August 11, 1938, the first meeting of The Alcoholic Foundation was held.