

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

July 2008

Keeping an open mind - It takes a bit of doing!

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“Well, what did you think of Joe, our speaker,” asked Mac as I drove him home from the meeting the other night. “Not very much I answered. “I can’t see those fellows who claim to stay sober, and happy too, on the First Step, and it gets the newcomer all confused. This is a Twelve Step program and one of these days Joe will find he hadn’t enough defense against that first drink.”

“Well,” Mac reminded me, “Joe has nearly two years sobriety behind him in this program and he’s done a lot of good. He must have something.”

The subject caught up with me again after I got into bed and started to check over my daily inventory. I had to admit I was wrong to talk that way because Joe has as much right to his way of practicing the program as I have to mine. I had to admit too that I had closed my mind as soon as Joe has said that after being sober nearly two years, he knew he had the First Step, but had not nibbled at any of the others yet and didn’t worry too much about the spiritual side of the program.

Now don’t get me wrong about Joe. Let’s take his inventory. What I mean is, let’s have a look at the good merchandise on his shelves because Joe and God can take care of any spoiled merchandise if there is any left. Joe had a rough time when he first came into AA. Seemed to kick it around a lot and few gave him any credit for being serious about it but he was serious and finally he got it. A lot of courage and determination there, and who is now better qualified to give the fellow with the same difficulties a helping hand...and who does more of it. Everybody likes Joe...he’s genuine, sincere. Lot of dry humor and down to earth philosophy. He’s got the First Step and says he doesn’t know too much about the rest, but he’s no “One to Twelve Step jumper.” He must have said a lot of things in his talk that my mind missed after I closed it. One thing is sure, he left us in no doubt about his sincerity regarding the First Step.

Sincerity! Why that’s a spiritual quality. And what

about the courage and determination, and the humility and honesty that went into the taking of the First Step? These, too, are spiritual qualities. I recalled that Joe had said somewhere in his talk that he couldn’t just put his finger on what had happened to enable him to finally get the program after batting it around unsuccessfully for so long, but he said it couldn’t have been anything he did and whatever it was, he sure was grateful for it. That’s quite a “nibble” at the Second Step. Pretty modest fellow this Joe. When I look back on my own experience, I find that Joe’s way of putting it sounds a lot more convincing than my early expressed belief in what God could do for me through the lip service I use to give by repeating the Second Step.

I was reminded, too, of a true story I sometimes tell at AA meetings. Some years ago I was boarding with two friends, a man and his wife. One day there came to dinner a young lady who had been bitten in a big way by some religious bug and she made valiant attempts to save our souls all through dinner and well on into the evening until finally, I made an excuse to go out. My friends, also afraid that the bar might go down before they got there, decided that they too had an almost forgotten appointment. Our lady friend, anxious to help, offered to drive us, but we compromised by agreeing to accept a ride as far as the street car line, which curiously enough, was just a block away from the nearest pub. She continued her perorations, constantly looking around to the back seat of the care and waving her arms to emphasize a point until my friend’s wife said, “For God’s sake, keep your hands on the wheel and watch where you are going.” “Have no fear,” said the young lady, “God is driving this car.” “Well,” said my friend, by this time thoroughly scared. “Why the hell don’t you give him a little cooperation?”

I thought to myself that perhaps Joe might not have broadcast his decision to turn over his will and life to the care of his God, nor gone through any special ritual in doing

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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.

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Group Information

New Groups

District 7

Peterborough Tuesday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM T279 HCX
Tuesday Night Step Group, Episcopal Church, 51 Concord St.

Peterborough Wednesday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM T277 HBX
Peterborough Beginners Mtg, Trinity Evangelical Church, Rte 101 W.

District 9

Londonderry Wednesday 7:00 PM 8:30 PM 682559 CZD
Men's Fireside Barn Meeting 187 Pillsbury Road

District 11

Laconia Wednesday 7:30 PM 9:00 PM T275 CBX
Laconia BB Step Study, Good Shepherd Lutheran. Church, 2238 Parade Rd.

Laconia Saturday 7:30 AM 8:30 AM T278 X
Early Bird Step, Congregational Church, 18 Veterans Sq

Meeting Changes

District 7

Henniker Monday 7:30 PM 8:30 PM 131262 SD (Time changed from 8-9 pm)
Keep Coming Back Group, Congregational Church Hall, Rte. 114

District 12

Manchester Saturday 8:00 PM 9:00 PM 642977 HSDX (Time changed from 7:30 pm)
Living-Loving-Sharing 12 Steps, New Horizons Shelter, 199 Manchester St.

District 13

Nashua Thursday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 375875 HS (GSO number corrected)
Sober and Free, Southern NH Medical Ctr, 29 Northwest Blvd.

District 14

Portsmouth Thursday 7:30 PM 8:30 PM 654376 DS (Location changed)
Living in the Solution, St Catherine's Church, 845 Woodbury Ave.

Portsmouth Tuesday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM T249 X (Location changed)
One Step at a Time, St. Catherine's Church, 845 Woodbury Ave.

District 17

Lisbon Monday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 680593 SD (Location changed)
Lisbon Monday Night OSD, St. Catherine's Church, 28 Highland St.

Lisbon Wednesday 8:00 PM 9:00 PM 139200 DS (Location changed)
Lisbon Group, St. Catherine's Church, 28 Highland St.

District 18

Newport MWThF 7:30 AM 8:30 AM 617048 XD (Name change, location clarified)
Rock Bottom Group. Church of the Epiphany, Park St.

Newport Wednesday 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 644150 HD (Location clarified)
Came to Believe Group, Millies Place, 45 John Stark Hwy

Newport Friday 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 618580 HDC (Location clarified)
Friday Night Group, Millies Place, 45 John Stark Hwy

Disbanded Meetings

District 7

Peterborough Wednesday 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 674232
Back to Basics Beginners, Trinity Evangelical Church, Rte. 101 West

District 14

Portsmouth Thursday 7:30 PM

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!

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CONCORD PRIMARY PURPOSE
CTR HARBOR FRI NIGHT POTPOURRI
DERRY MEN'S BEGINNERS GROUP
DERRY DERRY ORIGINAL GROUP
DERRY YOUNG AT HEART
DERRY SPACETOWN
DOVER HALF & HALF GROUP
DOVER MEET US HALFWAY
FARMINGTON GRATITUDE GROUP
GONIC WOMEN IN NEED OF SOBRIETY
GONIC KEEP IT IN AA
HAMPSTEAD WOMEN'S JOY OF LIVING
HAMPSTEAD SATURDAY MORNING AA
HAMPSTEAD HAMPSTEAD ANGELS
HENNIKER KEEP COMING BACK
KEENE TOAD GROUP
KEENE ON AWAKENING
KITTERY WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT TODAY
LACONIA BEGINNERS AWARENESS
LACONIA FIRST STEPPERS
LACONIA AA 101
LEBANON WED NIGHT STEP MTG
LISBON LISBON GROUP
LITTLETON ORIGINAL SUNDAY NITE GRP
MANCHESTER HEARD THRU THE GRAPEVINE
MANCHESTER PATHWAY TO SOBRIETY
MANCHESTER FIRST LIGHT OF DAY
MANCHESTER QUEEN CITY GROUP
MANCHESTER NORTH END GROUP
MANCHESTER FREE AT LAST
MILTON MILTON &
MOULTONBORO WINNIE'S WOMENS GRP
NASHUA TSDD MEN'S PEACE OF MIND
NASHUA PECULIAR MENTAL TWISTS
NASHUA TUESDAY NITE TRADITIONS
NASHUA SO. NASHUA TODAY GROUP
NASHUA SOBER AND FREE
NEWINGTON SAT AM BB STEP STUDY
NORTHWOOD SAT BIG BOOK MEETING
PELHAM STEP WOMEN'S GROUP
PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH ORIG
PETERBOROUGH EARLY MORN BB
PLAISTOW FRIDAY NITE LIVE
PLYMOUTH COVERED BRIDGE GROUP
PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S MEETING
PLYMOUTH NEW FREEDOM
PORTSMOUTH GOOD MORNING PORTS.

PORTSMOUTH HIGH NOONERS
RYE RYE RECOVERY
SALEM GENESIS STEP
STRAFFORD BOW LAKE GROUP
STRATHAM STRATHAM BIG BOOK
SUNCOOK SUNCOOK COMMON GROUND
SUNCOOK FRI NIGHT STEPPER
TILTON TILTON-FRANKLIN GROUP
WEARE FIRST THINGS FIRST
WOLFEBORO WOLFEBORO GROUP

Pipeline Chair's Note

From Bert K.

I was at the last Area Assembly. I am sorry to say A.A. unity was not the norm.

I felt very sorry for the D.C.M. of District 13. He introduced a motion that was very unpopular. I was once in the same situation when I was D.C.M. of District 8.

There was a meeting we lovingly called "Freaks and Felons". It was at the State Hospital and was mostly frequented by people from the State Hospital and the Halfway House. A lot of people put the meeting down. But a lot of good came out of it.

When I was D.C.M., eight out of 12 of the people on District 8's board came to A.A. from a 'nudge from the judge'. This meeting was the only place they felt comfortable when they first came in.

It was brought up to the District that the meeting was using a non-A.A. book. It was voted more than two-thirds to take the meeting out of the District List. Also, that I as D.C.M. was to take the necessary action on the District's wish to take it out of the Area List. I did my duty, though this was my first home group when I came in. It was voted on quickly. The meeting was 'out'!

I'm not saying the two meetings are the same, or that the reason is the same. I am saying as D.C.M. or whatever position we fill, that it is our duty not to do our own will. It is our duty to do the will of God and the people we represent. Sometimes we are privy to information other people are not, so we vote accordingly. Other than that we vote the people's will.

Sometimes as representatives we have to vote against things we believe in, such as the meeting we love. I knew there was a lot of good coming out of the meeting I loved. I let it go for the good and unity of A.A. as a whole.

We don't need another AD-HOC or conference. We need to support each other, agree or not. A.A.'s life depends on A.A.'s unity.

May God bless,
Bert

Twelve Steps of a Sponsor

1. I will not help you stay and wallow in limbo.
2. I will help you grow to become more productive by your own definition.
3. I will help you become more autonomous, more loving, of yourself, more free to continue becoming the authority of your own living.
4. I cannot give you dreams or “fix you up,” simply because I cannot.
5. I cannot give you growth, or grow for you. You must grow yourself by facing reality.
6. I cannot take away your loneliness or pain.
7. I cannot sense your world for you, evaluate your goals, or tell you what is best for you in your world; you have your own world.
8. I cannot convince you of the crucial choice of choosing the scary uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of not growing.
9. I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend, yet I cannot get close to you when you choose not to grow.
10. When I begin to care for you out of pity, when I begin to lose trust in you, then I am toxic, bad and inhibiting for you and you for me.
11. You must know – my help is conditional. I will be with you; hang in there with you as long as I continue to get the slightest hints that you are trying to grow.
12. If you can accept all of this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be...mature adults, leaving childishness forever to little children.

Open Mind _____ Continued from Page 1

so, but he sure was giving him more than a little cooperation.

Another thing I remember having heard Joe say during his talk was that “I got to thinking...” I could not recall just what he had been thinking about, but what struck me was that he was just saying in his own way, “I sought through...meditation...” I thought of how the Eleventh Step had worked for me so many times. I would “get to thinking” about something, in other words meditating about it, lining up in my mind the pros and cons, and then just add a little prayer for God’s guidance in finding the truth about it.

By this time, I had fully realized how very wrong I had been and the prayer in my heart as I went to sleep that night was “Thank you, God for reminding me to “Keep an open mind.”

Art L. - Toronto, Ontario

Greetings from Your Service Office

The Service Office is going digital. In the next couple of months many of the traditional AA and Grapevine Books will be available for very reasonable prices on CD. Watch for familiar books on CD such as AA Comes of Age, Young People and AA, Carrying the Message and Grapevine’s Emotional Sobriety and Spiritual Awakenings

The new Summer Edition of the Statewide Meeting List is ready. The price will remain the same, at only 40 cents per copy. Did you know that when a group orders 25 Meeting Lists the cost is only \$10.00? The cost to the Service Office is for postage is \$4. and the printer charges Area 43 \$9.25 to produce 25 copies at 37 cents per copy.

Don’t forget to send us your Anniversary and District events. We’ll make up flyers for the event and pass the information along for publication in the Pipeline.

Thank you to Lin, Vi, Carmen, Dick and Rich for all their help with putting the Pipeline together. Thank you to Geri for all your helpful service. Special thanks to all of you who come to pickup orders here at the Service Office; you save the Service Office so much in shipping and postage charges.

In grateful service,
Mary Anne and Ingrid

Save the date!

4th ANNUAL PIG ROAST

NH AA District 19 FUNction Committee

Saturday, August 2, 2008

at the Pavilion on Fitch Ct., Marlborough, NH

Party Starts at 10 a.m. Pig served around Noon

Open speaker meeting with Guest Speakers at 2:00 p.m.

Bonfire to follow the Saturday night

Came to Believe meeting

50/50 Raffle

Coffee - Soda - Water

Pot Luck Food Table (So bring a dish to share)

District 21

Annual Picnic

August 3rd 11a.m. - 5 p.m.

Stoors Pond on Reservoir Rd

Hanover, NH

Double Speaker Meeting begins at 2:30p.m.

Call Chris at 603-643-0139 with any questions.

District 11 Function Committee announces

The District 11 Annual Cookout

August 9th 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Opeechee Point, Opeechee Park, Laconia, NH

Questions? Call 527-0160