

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

February 2009

The Twelve Steps Revisited - Step 2

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (May 1961). Reprinted with permission.

Once during a period of weekend piloting, through a mishap of navigation, I flew a light plane into the clouds over some hilly terrain and got lost. The plane was without blind-flying instruments and I was without training in blind flying, and therefore, in a moment-to-moment peril of a fatal tailspin. I tried to climb out of the cloudbank, but couldn't make it; it was too high. To try and get under it may wind me up in a pile of burning junk on a hillside, or in a powerline. Whether I went up, or down, or stayed where I was, my life was in great danger. I was clammy, sweaty, scared.

Though not at that time religiously inclined, I prayed. Then I put the nose toward the ground and held it on a steep glide, peering ahead into the murk. Presently, I saw a farmhouse immediately ahead. I held a wing on it, circling, and saw a small pasture where a crash landing could be made. Gliding in for the landing, scarcely ten feet off the ground, I could see under the cloud structure. The farmhouse was high on a hillside; below was clear air over a long valley, I flew on. In a quarter of an hour I was safely landed at my destination airport, limp with gratitude and wonder. A power greater than myself had, in response to my prayer, restored me to safety! This happened seven years before I came into AA.

I did not hang on to this spiritual insight. After a day or two of awed reflection I forgot it, resumed my usual ways and usual drinking, which was progressing toward a climax. Seven years later, again fogged in, with all courses of action blocked in alcoholic impasse, I met some people who had "come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." Remembering then my deliverance from the cloud-shrouded hills, it was easier than it might otherwise have been to believe as they did.

But in a world such as ours, this belief has never been easy to come by, or to hold onto. Whenever you try to say how you felt about a certain topic at a given time in your life, you have to take into account your moods. At various

times, in different states of mind, my attitudes toward the issues raised in Step Two have ranged all the way from no, through maybe, to an ecstatic yes.

At this point it would not be out of place if somebody asked. "Who are you, and who cares about your attitudes?" So I identify myself: I'm an anonymous hanger-on in a worldwide battle for daily sobriety. I'm conducting a kind of one-man durability test, now in its fourteenth year, on the Twelve Steps. Seven years ago I made some notes called "Twelve Steps and the Older Member;" discussing the changing, growing meaning of the Steps as the years went by. Now another seven years have passed; time for another check. These are only comments I write with no authority, and with an awareness that my pretensions could dissolve into a tincture most any day. Still, the project seems worth while. Somebody else may get to thinking, and set the group wisdom to working on matters that will concern us all more and more as time goes on.

In everyday language, what we're up against in Step Two is this matter of whether there really is an invisible Higher Power who is willing to help a troubled person if asked. In a work-a-day world that takes no such power into its practical calculations, can a person reasonably "come to believe" such a thing? This issue ranks high among those that really stump AA candidates and AAs, old and young. It has been, at times, a very hard one for me.

Oddly enough, the more desperate I am, the easier it is for me to believe it. In the beginning, I was like a man pursued to the brink a swimming pool by a pack of wolves-which incidentally, can't swim. "Jump in," my friends said, "and paddle around in safety until the wolves go away."

"No," I said, "the pool is empty, I'll only break my head."

"No," they said, "the water's so clear you can't see it, but it's there; jump!"

So, not knowing, I jumped and found they were right; the water was there, sustaining, healing, protecting.

Please turn to Page 4 - Step 2

Pipeline

A publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

Email the Pipeline at
pipeline@nhaa.net

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



**NH Area Assembly
Service Office**
1330 Hooksett Road
Hooksett, NH 03106

Phone (603)622-6967
Fax #: (603)624-9507

E-Mail:
office@nhaa.mv.com

Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri. - 10AM to 4PM
Saturdays - 10AM to 2PM
Website: www.nhaa.net



Group Information

District			New Groups	
9	Derry	Saturday	7:00 PM 8:30 PM	664836 BX
	Big Book Step Study, Friendship Center, 45 E. Broadway Group			
13	Nashua	Wednesday	5:00 PM 6:00 PM	686018 HD
	Tools for Sobriety, So NH Med Center - West Campus, 29 Northwest Blvd.			
19	Winchester	Tuesday	8:00 PM 9:00 PM	686017 XD
	Winchester Twelve Steppers, United Church of Winchester, Main Street			

Meeting Changes

9	Derry	Tuesday	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	681525 XBDH
	12 Step Basics, 1st Parish Congregational Church, 47 East Derry Rd. Group Name Change from Back to Basics. Type change: B and H added			
9	Hampstead	Saturday	7:00 PM 8:30 PM	122151 HSD
	Hampstead Sat Nite Orig., St Christophers East Rd. Added D to type			

Disbanded Meetings

8	Penacook	Thursday	7:30 PM 8:45 PM	147969 HSD DDIS
	Brown House Behind Senior Center			

Love & Tolerance – the Path to Unity

43rd Annual Area 43 NH AA Convention set for April

Love and Tolerance – The Path to Unity is the theme for the 43rd Annual Area 43 New Hampshire AA Convention, which will be held the April 3, 4 and 5, 2009 at the Marriott Courtyard in Nashua.

Registration is \$22 in advance or \$25 for walk-in, and includes all speakers, meetings, coffee and the dance. There are additional costs for meals and the Ice Cream Social is \$3. Registrations postmarked by February 1, 2009 will be entered into a raffle for a set of the weekend CDs.

This year's convention will feature speaker talks, discussion sessions, workshops, Al-Anon participation, Hospitality, a Friday night Ice Cream Social and a Saturday night dance with a band.

Scheduled speakers are:

- Friday, 7:30 p.m. - Valerie O'N, New York, NY
- Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - Bob (AFG) and Camille R (AA, Louisville, KY)
- Saturday, 8 p.m. - Harold G., Annapolis, MD
- Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Jo L. - Eliot, ME

For more information contact: Chair: Danielle F. (603) 673-6902; Registration: Michelle O. (603) 483-8971; Program: Susan CP (603) 767-8200.

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 NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

December Donations _____ Thank You!

COVERED BRIDGE GROUP	ASHLAND	EARLY MORN. BB	PETERBOROUGH
BEDFORD AFTER HOURS	BEDFORD	ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT	PLYMOUTH
HOW TO 12 & 12	BEDFORD	COVERED BRIDGE GROUP	PLYMOUTH
LIVE LAUGH LOVE GROUP	COLEBROOK	12 & 12 BYOB	PORTSMOUTH
FRI NOON ACCEPTANCE	CONCORD	EYEOPENER GROUP	PORTSMOUTH
MT WASH. BB STEP STUDY	CONWAY	SUN MORNING DAYBREAK	PORTSMOUTH
COME AS YOU ARE	CTR CONWAY	GOOD MORN. PORTS.	PORTSMOUTH
DERRY ORIGINAL GROUP	DERRY	3-7-11 STEP GROUP	RYE
NO FRILLS	DERRY	SALEM SAT MORNING AA	SALEM
ANNIVERSARY GROUP	DOVER	BOW LAKE GROUP	STRAFFORD
MORNING REFLECTIONS	DOVER	SISTER OF SOBRIETY	STRATFORD
TWO HAT GROUP	DUBLIN	12 STEP GROUP	SUNAPEE
SIMPLY GRATEFUL	EPSOM	LIVING SOBER GROUP	WARREN
EXETER BIG BOOK	EXETER	COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS	WOLFEBORO
EXETER SERENITY	EXETER	NOONTIME GROUP	WOLFEBORO FALLS
GRATITUDE GROUP	FARMINGTON		
SATURDAY NITE ORIGINAL	HAMPSTEAD		
TUESDAY BEGINNERS GRP	HAMPTON		
WEDNESDAY BIG BOOK GRP	HAMPTON		
WORKING THE STEPS	HAMPTON		
KEEP COMING BACK	HENNIKER		
ONE DAY AT A TIME	HOPKINTON		
BIG BOOK STEP STUDY	KEENE		
CHESHIRE GROUP	KEENE		
FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP	KEENE		
WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT TODAY	KITTERY		
AS BILL SEES IT	LACONIA		
ORDINARY WHOOPEE PARTY	LEBANON		
WED NIGHT STEP MTG	LEBANON		
OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH	LITTLETON		
FIRST LIGHT OF DAY	MANCHESTER		
KEEP IT SIMPLE	MANCHESTER		
OVER 50 GROUP	MANCHESTER		
QUEEN CITY GROUP	MANCHESTER		
SUNDAY SERENITY	MANCHESTER		
THERE IS A SOLUTION	MANCHESTER		
INTERLAKES BEGINNERS	MEREDITH		
SUNDAY MORNING GROUP	MEREDITH		
MERRIMACK STEP	MERRIMACK		
NEW HORIZONS GROUP	MILFORD		
SOUHEGAN SUNRISE	MILFORD		
WOMEN IN SOBRIETY	N. HAMPTON		
EARLY BIRD GROUP	NASHUA		
NOONTIME SOBRIETY	NASHUA		
R4D MEN'S MEETING	NASHUA		
SO NASHUA TODAY GROUP	NASHUA		
40 PLUS GROUP	NEWCASTLE		
MON NIGHT BIG BOOK	NORTH CONWAY		

Rule 62

Heard at meetings...

...If it weren't for the shakes, I wouldn't have gotten any exercise at all.

...Service work in AA is like watching a football game: 20,000 spectators - who might benefit from a little exercise - are watching 22 players badly in need of a rest.

...When it comes to gratitude, my mind is like teflon. When it comes to resentments, my mind is like flypaper. Meetings help me reverse that phenomenon.

You know you're an alcoholic when ...

... You wrap your car around a tree and blame it on a landscaping error.

Definition of an Alcoholic...

...Someone who refuses to give up a life of failure without a fight.

Step, Tradition & Concept of the Month

Step Two - Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition Two - For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Concept Two - The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Greetings from your Service Office

If your group is considering opening a checking account, you will want to obtain a TIN for your group, rather than tying it to a group member's social security number. You can register your group as a non-profit entity, and should not be charged any bank fees for your account.

There is a form that must be filled out by someone from your group. You may either download Form SS-4 from the Internal Revenue website at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/fss4.pdf>, or call the IRS directly to request the form at 1-877-829-5500. Once you have filled out the appropriate sections of the form (see page 2 for instructions, Opened a bank account), have your group treasurer call the IRS at 1-877-829-5500. Given the information on your completed form, they should then be able to assign your group a TIN right over the phone.

In office news, we are in the process of putting together a new statewide meeting list. As always, we

appreciate any information you can pass on to us about the groups you frequent. We can't take on this project without YOUR help!

This month we have included a Group Change Form with your Pipeline. Many groups change GSRs this time of year. Please use the form and whoever fills out the form should indicate whether or not to use his/her name in the GSO Eastern Directory. Forward your completed form to your Registrar if possible or directly to the NHAA Service Office.

Thank you to our ongoing volunteers and especially to our new volunteer Bonnie M.

In grateful service,
Ingrid and Mary Anne

ALCOHOLICS - A Life Centered on Helping Others Live in Complete Sobriety.
ANONYMOUS - Actions Not Our Names Yield Maintenance of Unity and Service.

Step 2

Continued from Page 1

The difficulty of belief comes, in my own case, after desperation has passed. Self-reliance, which I had always been taught was a virtue, again takes over. Almost before I know it, I have come again to believe that changing activity involving myself and other self-reliant persons can accomplish about everything necessary – if only they'll do as I wish. But of course they don't, and I'm once more in the cycle of frustration, resentment, anger and a new desperation – stopping short, so far, thanks to God and to AA, of the old-time defiant binge.

This, of course, is not sanity, and I have to go back to Step Two again to be restored, I wanted a serene, unruffled sobriety, but this has not been granted; even my sobriety has been stormy, I have often been impatient that the Higher Power who restores my sanity, does not keep it restored, that the belief shining so clear and bright on Wednesday morning is often fogged in doubt by Thursday night, This has given me a hard time, amf I'll tell you how, after fourteen years of working at it, I have, for the time being, puzzled it out:

Moods are emotions; they come and go, swing high, swing low, hit joy and depression. If God had given us only moods we'd be at their mercy, but He gave us something else – intelligence. Intelligence tells us that if a thing is true it stays put, regardless of our mood. Two and two equals four for the happy mathematician and for the said one, and right here is where I am rescued. Twenty-one years ago a High

Power saved me from some aeronautical difficulty on urgent request. Fourteen years ago, the same Power gave me sanity through an alcoholic haze, after all the sanity-producing authorities of science had been invoked and failed.

Seven years ago I was able to write, "He is as awesome and as new, as spontaneous and as undiscovered, as friendly and as potent today." In all the intervening years I have watched the same Power restoring others to sanity, This has provided my intelligence with ample cause to believe, with an enduring certainty and regardless of the day's mood, that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.

It leaves open, of course, the pressing question, "Why don't I stay restored?" This, I think, is business for other Steps. I am one who holds the Steps should be taken one at a time. Step Two asks only the acceptance of a simple, world-shaking proposition that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity, When that proposition is accepted as a working belief, the Step is taken. Intellectual certainty, based on accumulated evidence, can buttress the belief against the onslaught of shifting moods. For myself, come up or come down, the years have brought no reason to recant. A Power greater than myself can restore me to sanity any time he wants to, there's absolutely no question about it.