



PIPELINE



2011 General Service Conference Approaches

As I get ready for the 2011 General Service Conference, I've been doing a lot of reading and have been attending many meetings - I am very honored and privileged to represent Area 43. Thank you for your prayers and participation in the process of preparing for the Conference.

I recently stumbled across something I found very interesting. Everyone knows how A.A. started with Bill W. thinking of drinking and looking in the bar and then going to payphone and calling local churches looking for a drunk to help. He was directed to Dr. Bob and the rest is history. I often question who was helped more that day, Dr. Bob or Bill?

- In Love and Service, Rich P.,
Delegate Area 43

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in

keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that has brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over-integration.

We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few.

We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these hall unmasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

- Page S20, A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service



Reminders From the Area 43 Service Office

Donate Old Grapevines

The *Grapevine* is in high demand at NH's jails and prisons. Please drop off your old copies at the Area 43 Service Office and we'll be sure to pass along to the Corrections Committee.

Get Your Forms on
www.nhaa.net/index-forms.html

New Parking Rules at Hooksett Office

These new rules apply to committee members who come to the office for their meetings: Please park in front of the building and come downstairs. The back parking lot gets too full with our cars during meetings and we have to observe our neighbor's wishes. There is also open parking in the Shaw's parking lot.

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 AA 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 AA movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs.

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1-800-593-3300



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Disruptive Members at A.A. Meetings

In the Big Book, the chapter “Working with Others,” lists some possibilities that may occur when an A.A. adopts the attitude that “Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery.” Helping a drunk may mean “. . . innumerable trips to police courts, sanitariums, hospitals, jails and asylums Another time you may have to send for the police or an ambulance. Occasionally you will have to meet such conditions.” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 97) In short, during the course of laying the foundation stone of recovery and helping others, an A.A. may find him or herself with a troublesome member. In meetings, where A.A.s find other drunks to work with, the possibilities described in helping drunks are also present, and occasionally, members disrupt meetings.

Although A.A.s strive to adopt certain attitudes and behaviors, such as “Love and tolerance of others is our code” (*ibid*, p. 84), members sometimes find that a troublesome individual’s behavior is so violent or threatening



that it has become difficult or impossible for the group to fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message. Furthermore, Tradition One reminds the group that “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 189)

How a group handles disruptive and/or threatening members can cause conflict and controversy, so many group members rely upon the shared experience of others who have successfully dealt with a similar situation. Often, groups or group members contact the General Service Office regarding disruptive members at A.A. meetings. G.S.O., in addition to upholding actions of our Conference and board, also functions as a repository for the shared experience of A.A. groups.

Some groups have shared suggestions on how to handle disruptive behavior. One group recommends that a member first approach the individual, informally and one-on-one, in order to discuss the problem and look for solutions. This group reminds one another to let the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions guide all communication, striving always to place principles before personalities and to treat all with kindness, patience, compassion, tolerance, and love.

In another example, one group shared how they dealt with disruptive and/or threatening members who did not respond to polite requests or one-on-one approaches: The group set up a group conscience/business meeting and, prior to all discussion, agreed to the following format: 1.) Each member can speak only twice on each topic, and 2.) Each member can share for only two minutes at a time. Further, the group also found it helpful to define a disruptive/threatening member as anyone who interrupts the good orderly direction of the meeting so that the message of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot be carried. A disruptive and/or threatening member was also defined as one whose actions intimidate or frighten

(continued on page 4)

Quarterly Contribution Report

- ALTON - GATEWAY TO SOBRIETY
- ANDOVER - LIVING SOBER GROUP
- BEDFORD - BASIC 12 STEP
- BEDFORD - HOW TO 12 & 12
- BERLIN - DERBY DISCUSSION
- BRADFORD - SAT MORNING STEP MTG
- BRENTWOOD - KINGSTON 12 & 12
- BRISTOL - NEWFOUND LAKE GRP
- CLAREMONT - SUNDAY NIGHT GROUP
- CLAREMONT - 12 STEP GROUP
- COLEBROOK - LIVE LAUGH LOVE
- CONCORD - HEART OF THE HEIGHTS
- CONCORD - NEW WOMENS STEP GRP
- CONCORD - SUNDAY AM BEGINNERS
- CONCORD - DAILY REFLECTIONS
- CONCORD - WEDNESDAY NOON BB
- CONCORD - MON. NITE STEP
- CONCORD - BYOC
- DERRY - DERRY ORIGINAL GROUP
- DERRY - DERRY WOMEN'S GROUP
- DERRY - UNITY GROUP
- DERRY - SPACETOWN
- DOVER - SAT. NITE COMMITMENT
- DOVER - BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
- DOVER - RESURRECTION GROUP
- DOVER - HALF & HALF GROUP
- DOVER - EYE OPENER GROUP
- DOVER - MEET US HALFWAY
- DOVER - DOVER ORIGINAL
- DOVER - MORNING REFLECTIONS
- DUBLIN - TWO HAT GRP
- DURHAM - FRESH BEGINNERS GRP
- EPSOM - SIMPLY GRATEFUL
- EXETER - AS BILL SEES IT
- EXETER - EXETER SERENITY
- EXETER - KEEP IT SIMPLE
- FARMINGTON - LIVING IN THE MOMENT
- FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON STEP GRP
- FARMINGTON - GRATITUDE GROUP
- FRANKLIN - GROWING INTO RECOVERY
- FRANKLIN - AS BILL SEES IT
- GORHAM - NEW LIFE GROUP
- HAMPSTEAD - WOMEN'S JOY OF LIVING
- HAMPSTEAD - HAMPSTEAD TUES NIGHT
- HAMPSTEAD - SATURDAY MORNING AA
- HAMPSTEAD - HAMPSTEAD BIG BOOK
- HAMPSTEAD - WOMEN'S SUNDOWNERS
- HAMPSTEAD - HAMPSTEAD ANGELS
- HAMPTON - HAMPTON BB DISCUSSION
- HAMPTON - WEDNESDAY BIG BOOK GRP
- HAMPTON - EYE OPENER GROUP
- HAMPTON - HAMPTON BEGINNERS
- HAMPTON - WORKING THE STEPS
- HANOVER - NEW BEGINNINGS
- HENNIKER - BROKEN ELEVATOR GROUP
- HENNIKER - KEEP COMING BACK
- HOPKINTON - ONE DAY AT A TIME
- HUDSON - GET IT TOGETHER GROUP
- KEENE - CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
- KEENE - BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
- KEENE - FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP
- KEENE - T.O.A.D. GROUP
- KEENE - ON AWAKENING
- KITTERY - WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT TODAY
- LACONIA - WOMEN'S STEPPING UP GRP
- LACONIA - TUES NITE 12 STEP GRP
- LACONIA - BEGINNERS AWARENESS
- LACONIA - SATURDAY NITE ALIVE
- LACONIA - EARLY STEP GROUP
- LACONIA - AS BILL SEES IT
- LACONIA - LADIES NITE OUT
- LACONIA - HAPPY HOUR
- LANCASTER - LANCASTER TUES NITE LIT MTG
- LEBANON - SAT. NIGHT LIVE
- LEBANON - SUNDAY BIG BOOK
- LINCOLN - LINCOLN
- LINCOLN - PRIMARY PURPOSE GRP
- LISBON - LISBON MONDAY NIGHT
- LISBON - LISBON GROUP
- LITTLETON - ORIGINAL SUNDAY NITE GRP
- LITTLETON - THURSDAY STEP GROUP
- LITTLETON - OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH
- LITTLETON - 12 & 12 STEP GROUP
- MANCHESTER - HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE
- MANCHESTER - WOMENS BACK TO BASICS
- MANCHESTER - THERE IS A SOLUTION
- MANCHESTER - FIRST LIGHT OF DAY
- MANCHESTER - MANCHESTER ORIGINAL
- MANCHESTER - CONSCIOUS CONTACT
- MANCHESTER - COURAGE TO CHANGE
- MANCHESTER - QUEEN CITY GROUP
- MANCHESTER - SUNDAY SERENITY
- MANCHESTER - WOMEN'S DAYTIME
- MANCHESTER - HARD HAT GROUP
- MANCHESTER - KEEP IT SIMPLE
- MANCHESTER - NEW LIFE GROUP
- MANCHESTER - OVER 50 GROUP
- MANCHESTER - WE STOPPED YOUNG PEOPLE'S
- MANCHESTER - ALL TOGETHER
- MANCHESTER - FREE AT LAST
- MEREDITH - SUNDAY MORNING GROUP
- MERRIMACK - B&M FREEDOM GROUP
- MILFORD - MON. MILFORD WOMEN'S STEP
- MILFORD - MILFORD BEGINNERS
- MILFORD - SOUHEGAN SUNRISE
- MILFORD - NEW HORIZONS GRP
- MILTON - MILTON MILLS MENS MTG
- MILTON - MILTON AA GROUP
- MUNSONVILLE - KEEP IT SIMPLE MENS
- NASHUA - PECULIAR MENTAL TWISTS
- NASHUA - TUESDAY NITE TRADITIONS
- NASHUA - OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH
- NASHUA - EARLY BIRD GROUP
- NASHUA - STEPS TO SERENITY
- NASHUA - WOMEN STEPPING UP
- NASHUA - SNL YOUNG PEOPLE
- NASHUA - A NEW DAY GROUP
- NASHUA - NEW ALTERNATIVE
- NASHUA - DOWNTOWN GROUP
- NASHUA - SOBER AND FREE
- NEW LONDON - YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP
- NEW LONDON - NEW LONDON GROUP
- NEW LONDON - OLD TIMERS K.I.S.
- NEW LONDON - AS BILL SEES IT
- NEWCASTLE - 40 PLUS GROUP
- NEWMARKET - NEW BEGINNING GROUP
- NEWPORT - HAPPY HOUR BB MTG
- NEWPORT - BANK ON IT GRP
- NEWPORT - GOSH PORT
- NO CONWAY - LIVING SOBER GROUP
- NO HAMPTON - KITCHEN TABLE GROUP
- PELHAM - STEP WOMEN'S GROUP
- PELHAM - PELHAM BIG BOOK
- PETERBOROUGH - EARLY MORN. BB
- PLYMOUTH - SATURDAY NIGHT ORIGINAL
- PLYMOUTH - WOMEN'S MEETING
- PLYMOUTH - OVER EASY
- PORTSMOUTH - GOOD MORN. PORTSMOUTH
- PORTSMOUTH - SUNDAY OPEN ARMS GROUP
- PORTSMOUTH - ONE STEP AT A TIME
- PORTSMOUTH - PORTS. ORIGINAL GRP
- PORTSMOUTH - EARLY BIRDS GROUP
- PORTSMOUTH - EYEOPENER GROUP
- PORTSMOUTH - WING DING GROUP
- PORTSMOUTH - HIGH NOONERS
- PORTSMOUTH - REBORN GROUP
- RYE - 3-7-11 STEP GROUP
- SALEM - SALEM SATURDAY MORNING AA
- SALEM - SALEM NOONTIME GROUP
- SALEM - WINDHAM TUES NIGHT
- SALEM - PEACE OF MIND
- STRATFORD - SISTERS OF SOBRIETY
- SUNAPEE - SUNAPEE 12 STEP GROUP
- TILTON - SATURDAY MORNING BIG BK
- WARNER - WARNER GROUP
- WARREN - LIVING SOBER GROUP
- WEARE - FIRST THINGS FIRST
- WINDHAM - SUNDAY MORNING SERENITY
- WOLFEBORO FALLS - NOONTIME GROUP
- WOODSVILLE - WOODSVILLE WONDERS
- WOODSVILLE - WOODSVILLE AREA

Group Info.

New Groups

D8, Concord
Monday, 7-8pm
11 Step-Prayer-Meditation,
St. Paul's Church Outreach Ctr.
21 Centre Street

D19, Keene
Thursday, 7-8:30pm
More Than Sobriety, DCSX
Keene Senior Center, 70 Court St.

Group Changes

D13, Hudson
Monday, 7-8pm
A Vision For You, HDC
First Baptist Church, 246 Central St.
Grp. moved to new location

D19, Keene
Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm
Young People's Meeting, S
Keene Universalist Unitarian Church
69 Washington St.
Time changed from 7:00pm

D19, Keene
Tuesday, 7-8pm
Come Back Big Book, DB
Senior Center, 70 Court St.
Time changed from 6:30pm Location
Change from 463 Washington St.

Disbanded Groups

D19, Keene
Thursday, 8-9pm
Keene Thursday Night Step Grp.
The Community Kitchen, 37 Mechanic St.

D19, Keene
Tuesday, 8-9:15pm
Cheshire Group
The Community Kitchen, 37 Mechanic St.

...Disruptive Members

(continued from page 2)

newcomers so that they cannot hear the A.A. message. Under these circumstances, the disruptive A.A. member is asked to attend the group conscience/business meeting. Whether or not he or she attends, the group discusses the problem. If present, the procedure is explained to the disruptive member. The disruptive member may be asked to stop attending the meeting for a specific period of time.

In the above instance, the member is not being “thrown out” of A.A., just asked not to attend the meeting. The First Tradition assures A.A.s that no member “can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 129) It is always hoped that the individual member will see the difficulty as an opportunity for personal growth and will attend other meetings in the area in order to maintain his or her sobriety. Usually, this sort of action is taken as a last resort—after an individual has been asked to change his or her behavior.

Bill W., who always emphasized the loving, helpful, and tolerant attitude A.A. members should show each other, wrote in a letter in 1969: “This amount of charity does not mean that we can not exclude those who disturb meetings or seriously interfere with the functioning of the group. Such people can be asked to quiet down or go elsewhere, or, to come back when they are better able to participate.” Indeed, Bill W. was no stranger to tumult, controversy, or disturbances at A.A. meetings. He also had faith that growth and good could come out of trouble. In *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, he writes, “Within A.A., I suppose, we shall always quarrel a good bit. Mostly, I think, about how to do the greatest good for the greatest number of drunks... Surmounting such problems, in A.A.’s rather rugged school of life, is a healthy exercise.” (p. 233)

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Contributions — Thank You!

Thank you to all the groups that contributed! Your contributions are critical to the continued success of AA in our Area as we carry the message to fellow alcoholics. We’ll be publishing the donation list quarterly and greatly need your continued support, especially now while donations to the Area have been tapering due to the tight economy — **thank you!**

Contribute to Pipeline

- Report AA-related news from your district or the Area — round-ups, social functions, assemblies, calendar items, requests for volunteers, etc.
- Share your Experience, Strength & Hope

Send Contributions & Feedback to:

- Email to: pipeline@nhaa.net, or
- Mail to: NH Assembly Office, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106, Attn: Pipeline

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Send \$6 for each group subscription (10 copies/month for 1 year) or \$3.50 for each individual subscription (2 copies/month for 1 year) to NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!



Functions, Events and More!

See the enclosed calendar for all the details on what’s happening in the Area!