

PIPELINE



Area 43 Convention Countdown—Pass It On!

Wow! By the time this article is published, we will be only two months away from the 45th Area 43 State Convention being held at the North Conway Grand Hotel. Have you registered yet? Made your plans to stay for the weekend or come for the day? Well the clock is ticking and I encourage you to take action today! The convention is an awesome experience especially if you come with friends. Of course we AA's know that we're all friends even if we haven't officially met each other - just walk into any meeting room around the world and that feeling will get you.

Here's the inside scoop directly from the Functions Committee on some of the plans:

We have a great assortment of workshops and marathon meetings planned for the weekend. Because of the layout of the Grand Hotel, we have more rooms than last year and are able to offer a bigger selection. On the table for your consideration is a three-part workshop on the three legacies. Come for one or come for all – whatever works for you!

Making our workshops interactive and fully participatory is important so we are planning a workshop on the topic "We Are Not A Glum Lot" where participants will have the opportunity to share on their "life after drinking" experiences that illustrate that concept.

With more and more young people involved in Area 43 activities recently, we're conducting a workshop about the influ-

ence younger AA members are having on the Fellowship and the excitement they bring to the next era of recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous.

One of my favorite topics is Sponsorship! On Sunday morning we will have a special treat before the closing AA/Al-Anon

meeting: the workshop title is "Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Ye Give" - a familiar phrase to students of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. In this workshop we will discuss the ways in which sponsors "Pass It On" to their sponsees - and how sponsees pass it back to sponsors. We will honor the tradition of sponsorship with a special remembrance. So bring your sponsor and bring your sponsees too!

Stay tuned next month for a checklist of what to bring to the convention. A few of the items may surprise you but I think you will get a lot more out of this experience if you participate.

Please consider attending and supporting our state convention. Remember these important dates – March 8th for hotel reservations, March 26th for pre-registration and, of course, the convention itself April 8-10th. Registration forms are available on www.nhaa.net or through your DCM.

- Yours in service, Cheryl L., Alternate Delegate Area 43/Panel 60



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.

**NH Area Hotline:
1-800-593-3300**



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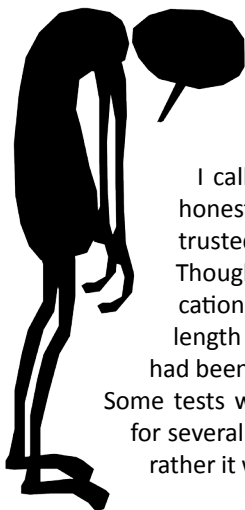
Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am—4pm
Sat: 10am—2pm

Let it Happen

I entered AA wondering, "How did I get here, to this point in my life?" I was raised in a non-drinking house; I never drank much in college and for twenty years thereafter. I really only got smashed maybe once a year at a holiday party. This isn't really a drunk log but more about some realizations I have found once I admitted I had become powerless over alcohol and entered the Fellowship.

I cried at my first meeting, hearing the stories of others and how their lives had been affected by their drinking and also by their recovery. I was at the right place after all. I had told myself many a time I was not a drunk, and I was right, I was an alcoholic. I have a disease - this was making more sense to me now. I said earlier I was raised in a non-drinking house, and that is true, but on my paternal side there were issues with alcohol. I believe my father had seen this early in his life and had made a choice never to drink. So I learned genetics were coming into play here. That at least made some of my guilt about my drinking easier to take.



There was another issue in my life that came to light with my drinking. Before coming to the Fellowship for help, I had realized I had a real problem with alcohol and I tried to work it out myself. After a particular night of blackouts and emotional breakdowns,

I called a business client who happened to be a Doctor. I honestly did not know what type of doctor she was, only that I trusted her. Luckily she has a file cabinet full of folks "like me." Though she was supposed to be enjoying the serenity of a vacation, she at once gave me direction and hope. We talked at length and I revealed to her that I thought I had depression. I had been experiencing days of complete apathy and bodily pain. Some tests we did later proved the depression I had been feeling for several years had an actual source. It was not just in my head; rather it was a lack of what was in my head, chemically speaking.

How does all this tie together? That is a question I have been asking myself. I was never intoxicated daily, but my drinking did escalate over a five year period. I went from getting high on the weekends to drinking until I blacked out on a random weeknight. I am grateful that I did not lose the things most dear to me as I've heard has happened to many. Though don't get me wrong, I did lose some things and nearly everything. Fortunately the people who truly loved me stayed with me until I saw the light. My thoughts here drift in the direction of what I have come to know as a Higher Power.

I have always believed in fate, that all things in this world happen for a reason. My notion of fate may be what some will call a Higher Power, God, Great

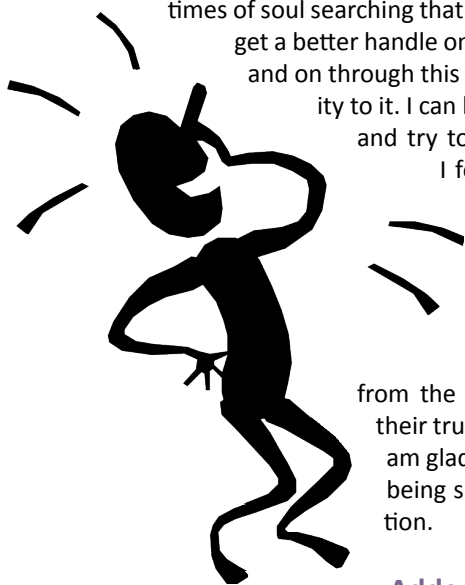
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...Let It Happen

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Spirit, Allah and such. I just call it a Greater Power. I am coming to realize that my depression and my drinking, as well as my current place in life (where I live, who I am with, the friends I have) are all part of my path. Where it's leading me, I am not yet sure.

Medication has helped the depression so my brain could chemically react more the way it should, but it still was not thinking the way it should. Since the time I was a child I wanted to be a Grandfather like my maternal Grandfather, with a little Bill Cosby thrown in. As I grew I could see this was not to be. Anger, selfishness (my way is always the right way), and ambition seemed to be my enemy. I was at a loss to change it, try as I may. However, I am discovering through the Twelve Steps a path to where I want to be. A place where I will be more accepted by those I love. A place where my family will make time to be with me because they want to, not because they have to. I believe my Greater Power has set all this in motion for me and I am ready for it.



To anyone reading this, it may all sound a bit random, but I find in times of soul searching that writing down my thoughts helps me to get a better handle on things. I have found my mind flows on and on through this process and there is a certain spirituality to it. I can look deeper into my rambling thoughts and try to put them together more coherently.

I feel I have been given a gift. How else would that Greater Power get some of us to see another path, the path that was our true destiny since the day we were born? Like cattle in an old western movie being driven to some far off destination, some stray from the herd and need to be guided back to their true path, and some may never get back. I am glad that I am finding my way back and am being shown a new way to get to my destination.

Addendum...

It has been several months since I wrote the preceding paragraphs, and in the words of The Grateful Dead "...what a long strange trip it's been!" I have made some wonderful friends in the program, I am a coffee maker, committee volunteer, and am active in my home group. I have made amends, have learned to mind my own business, and have seen the rewards of a family that wants to be around me again. I have shared the joy of fellow AA's reaping the same rewards. I came, I listened, I let it happen - let it happen to you, too!

- Lucas A., February 27, 2009, Manchester, NH

Group Info.

New Groups

D15, Durham
Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm
Tuesday Night Step Meeting, DCBX
20 Madbury Rd. - Group restarted

D17, Berlin
Saturday, 7-8:30pm
North Country BB Step Study, B
Teabirds Café, 151 Main St.

Group Changes

D13, Merrimack
Thursday, 7-8:15pm
B & M Freedom Group, DC
Faith Episcopal Church,
590 Daniel Webster Hwy.
Time change from 7pm to 8pm

D17, Berlin
Wednesday, 12-1pm
As Bill Sees It, D
St Barnabas Church, 2 High St.
Moved from Untd. Church of Christ

D17, Berlin
Saturday, 7-8pm
Keep It Clean, D
Androscoggin Valley Hospital, 59 Page
Hill Rd- lecture room
Moved from Untd. Church of Christ

Disbanded Groups

D10, Plaistow
Monday, 4:15-5:30pm
Plaistow Young People, DS
Sad Café, 148 Plaistow Rd.

D16, Ossipee
Tuesday, 7:30-9pm
Mountainview, DHX
Caroll County Nursing Home,
10 County Farm Rd.

45th Annual Area 43 AA Convention **PASS IT ON**

April 8th – 10th, 2011

North Conway Grand Hotel

Registration: \$22 in advance or \$25 walk in.

Has your group or district considered creating scholarships? Chump change, raffles, and chipping in are some of the ways we can ensure everyone who wants to can attend!

Highlights

- Keynote speakers Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night, and Sunday morning
- Discussion sessions, meetings, and workshops
- Friday night Ice Cream Social
- Saturday night dance
- Hospitality Room...and much more!

Chair: Diana T., (603) 489-7061

Program: Cheryl L., (603) 369-1313 or (603) 763-9368
functions@nhaa.net, Web: www.nhaa.net

Function Committee
NH Area Assembly
1330 Hooksett Road
Hooksett, NH 03106

Visit www.nhaa.net for more information and to download your registration form!

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 annually) or \$3.50 for each individual subscription (2 copies) to NHAAs, 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

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!**



Functions, Events and More!

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