

District 48 Newsletter

May 2013

www.District48aa.org

A.A. and Alcoholism

Along with pamphlets and AA approved literature such as *The Language of the Heart*, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, great information can also be found on the website. The best part of all this readily available material is the fact that discussions regarding wide-spread relevant issues have already been thought through and documented in plain and precise language, based on informed group conscience. The following can be found on the website www.aa.org under the link called Highlights and then The AA Fact File.

A.A. is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual alcoholics who turn to the Fellowship for help.

A.A. is not a religious organization, does not engage in the fields of alcoholism research, medical or psychiatric treatment, or education, although members may participate in such activities as individuals.

The Fellowship has adopted a policy of "cooperation but not affiliation" with other organizations concerned with the problem of alcoholism.

A.A. does not accept or seek financial support from outside sources, and members preserve personal anonymity at the public level in print, and broadcast and digital media.

A.A. experience has always been made available freely to all who sought it—business people, spiritual leaders, civic groups, law enforcement officers, health and welfare personnel, educators, representatives of military establishments,

institutional authorities, representatives of organized labor, and many others. But A.A. never endorses, supports, becomes affiliated with, nor expresses opinions on the programs of others in the field of alcoholism, since such actions would be beyond the scope of the Fellowship's primary purpose.

A.A.'s relations with professional groups, agencies, facilities, and individuals involved with the problems of alcoholism are handled by the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibility. Mutual understanding and cooperation between A.A. members and others who work with alcoholics are the concerns of this standing committee of the General Service Board.

Contact AA Online:

www.aa.org
www.area59aa.org
www.aagrapevine.org

By Phone:

Local: 570-327-2860

By Mail:

G.S.O.
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

For strength and hope for
friends and families of problem
drinkers:

Al-Anon Online:

www.al-anon.alateen.org

Coming in May. . .

5/11/13 **Traditions Workshop** by District 36 Hershey, PA Contact: calm-peace@comcast.net for additional info

5/18/13 **Essential's of A.A. Workshop** by District 53, Factoryville, PA.

5/18-5/19/13 **Circle of Hope Round Up**, Reading, PA Contact: info@circleofhoperoundup.com

5/19/13 **AA Unity: A Day of Workshops!** Hosted by Districts 25, 26, 27 & 28 SEPIA Offices, Philadelphia, PA

5/19/13 **Traditions Workshop** by District 52, Honesdale, PA

5/25/13 **Breakfast/Speaker Meeting**, Trexlertown, PA

For additional information, please see
www.area59aa.org.



Anniversaries can be emailed to AADistrict48@gmail.com

Lindsey E. 5/13/13 6 months; Karen Y. 4/28/13 33 Years; Alexa H. 4/10/13 1 Yr; Candace G. 5/14/13 1 Yr,
Gary C. 4/25/13 3 yrs; Steve 4/24/13 6 months; Troy 9 months; Meredith 5/1/2013 8 years

Court Appointment and A.A.

MEMBERS FROM COURT PROGRAMS AND TREATMENT FACILITIES

In the last years, A.A. groups have welcomed many new members from court programs and treatment facilities. Some have come to A.A. voluntarily; others, under a degree of pressure. In our pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate," the following appears:

We cannot discriminate against any prospective A.A. member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency.

Although the strength of our program lies in the voluntary nature of membership in A.A., many of us first attended meetings because we were forced to, either by someone else or by inner discomfort. But continual exposure to A.A. educated us to the true nature of the illness.... Who made the referral to A.A. is not what A.A. is interested in. It is the problem drinker who is our concern.... We cannot predict who will recover, nor have we the authority to decide how recovery should be sought by any other alcoholic.

PROOF OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Sometimes, courts ask for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.

Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have the A.A. group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court together with a self-addressed court envelope. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance.

Other groups cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. **The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.**

This proof of attendance at meetings is *not* part of A.A.'s procedure. Each group is autonomous and has the right to choose whether or not to sign court slips. In some areas the attendees report on themselves, at the request of the referring agency, and thus alleviate breaking A.A. members' anonymity.

Reprinted as listed on www.area59aa.org

Did You Know?

Did you know that the history of the chip system is thought to have begun in Indianapolis in 1942? The tradition is believed to have started with Doherty S., who originally brought A.A. to Indianapolis. Doherty himself, in a letter to Bill, seems to indicate the practice originated in Indianapolis in 1942.

Nell Wing wrote in 1962 about the history of the chip system: "...The chip system might have begun in Indianapolis....reference was made in a letter from Doherty to the start of giving out 'chips' and 'tokens.' This was in 1942. I imagine this would be about right, because most of the early groups started in 1940 and it would take about a couple of years to think of anniversaries and marking any time of sobriety. I asked Bill about this and his memory is that the system started in Indianapolis."

In *Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers*, it indicates that Sister Ignatia in Akron, working at St. Thomas Hospital, also used medallions: "Sister Ignatia gave each of her newly released patients a Sacred Heart medallion, which she asked them to return before they took the first drink. She would occasionally give out St. Christopher medals as well..." (page 195).

