

District 48 Newsletter

April 2013

www.District48aa.org

AA Has No "Musts"

Tradition One is that our common welfare should come first—personal recovery is dependent on AA unity. Humility is discussed in this tradition as perspective, implicating that we relate ourselves rightly to God* and our fellows; that we see ourselves as we really are. Some may question if this tradition means that an individual may be swallowed up, dominated by the group? On the contrary, perhaps there is no society on earth more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief or action. AA has no "musts." Few groups (if any) impose penalties for nonconformity. We suggest, not discipline. In fact, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he or she is the judge of their own conduct. The words of old time "judge not", we observe most literally.

COMING IN APRIL....

April 12-14 SEPIA 2013 Annual Roundup at The Grand Hotel, Cape May, NJ. For additional information, please contact SEPIA offices: 215-923-7900

April 13 Share-A-Day NEPAIG/EPGSA Districts 39, 40, 49, 52, 53 & 62 at

Moosic Alliance Church, 608 Rocky Glen Road, Moosic, PA 10am -2pm.

Topic is "Volunteers in Harmonious Action". Food and Roundtable discussions regarding how to facilitate volunteers in AA service. For additional information nepasoberstock@gmail.com

April 14 District 34 Workshop at The 521 Club, 2400 Butter Rd. Lancaster PA 12n-3pm. Showing the newly released film, "BILL W." (A documentary)

April 20 District 40 Annual Spring Breakfast 8:30-11:30 am at 28 Memorial St, Exeter, PA Contact Dist40events@hotmail.com

April 21 Combined Intergroup Workshop Planning Meeting for all of the Intergroup and Districts that serve Area 59 2 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church, 1059 Victory Circle, Reading for info please contact: rgcalh0830@verizon.net

But some will argue, if AA has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare comes first? If everyone can do as he or she pleases, how can you not have anything but anarchy?



Perspective

Though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us, the answer seems that we cannot really do as we please. Actually

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our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us and our conscience begins to complain.

If one persists, he or she may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him or her a beating. Group opinion shows that he is off the beam, her own conscience tells her that she is dead wrong, and if he or she goes too far, Barleycorn brings real conviction!

Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves. Eventually we cooperate because we really want to. Reprint in part from Language of the Heart Grapevine December 1947.*God of your understanding.

AA is All Inclusive, Never Exclusive

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. We may refuse none who wish to recover. AA membership does not depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group. This implies an alcoholic is a member if he or she says so; we cannot force our beliefs or practices upon him or her.

Our tradition carries the principle of independence for the individual to such a fantastic length that, so long as there is the slightest interest in sobriety, the most unmoral, antisocial, critical alcoholic may gather about a few kindred spirits and announce to us a new AA group has formed. Reprinted in part from the July 1946 issue of Grapevine.

Anniversaries can be emailed to AADistrict48@gmail.com

Heather 30 days; Laura R. 3 months 4/3/13 Jerry W. 5 yrs 4/1/2013; Stacey 30 days; Lisa 2 yrs 4/9/2013; Jen P. 60 days 4/5/13

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

Tradition Three

Tradition Three is the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Even in self-protection we do not wish to erect even the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. Society has demanded that we confirm to law and conventions. But the essence of the alcoholic malady is the fact that we have been unable or unwilling to conform to laws of man or God. The sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. We cannot offer to meet the sick alcoholic at

the half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he or she is and show we understand. We realize he or she is to weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he or she might stay away and perish.

Are there conditions? Not a one!

Experience, strength and hope only. If you want what we have, do what we have done...but there are no musts in

Founder's Day June 7-9, 2013

June 10, 1935, is the date Dr. Bob (co-founder of AA) had his last drink. This date has long been thought of as the founding date of Alcoholics Anonymous. Each year members celebrate by visiting Akron, Ohio—the birthplace of AA.

Registration is a requirement for Founder's Day whether you are going for the entire weekend or the day. **Early registration for Package Plans** (full name, address and phone number is required) is in effect **until May 15, 2013**. **Early Basic Registration** (first and last names are no

longer required with basic registration) **ends June 1, 2013**. If you are not sure about going or miss the deadlines, **on-site registrations opens 8am Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8, in the Student Union of The University of Akron**.

Basic Registration is \$20 and includes entrance to the conference and all meetings.

Package Plan A is \$180 and includes overnight accommodations, name badge and ribbon, entrance to the conference and all meetings, bus tour of historic sites, Saturday meals

The following website is a direct link to answer all your questions about registering for Founder's Day 2013.

<https://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org/>

and Sunday breakfast.

Package Plan B is \$130 includes overnight accommodations, name badge and ribbon, entrance to conference and meetings, bus tour of historic sights.

Can You Find This Line?

"Most of us feel we need look for no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now."

What Book? What Page?

(For a hint turn the page upside down.)



The answer can be found in the first 164 pages of the Big Book.

Answers can be emailed to aadistrict48@gmail.com. Winners will be announced in the next issue.

Answers from the March 2013 Issue:

"Ideas, emotions, and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of the lives of these men are suddenly cast to one side, and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate them."

What book? What Page? Answer: *Alcoholics Anonymous, Chapter 2, "There is a Solution" pg 27*