The 13th Step

“people who prey on newbies”

Alcoholic Anonymous is famous for its 12-step program designed to take people from alcoholism to sobriety. It was founded by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith. The 13th step which exposes the ongoing sexual abuses and violent and theft-type offenders within AA.

Monica Richardson’s Bio:

She is an Activist and member in AA for 36 years. In 2010, before she walked away from AA and embarked a personal mission to expose abusive practices in AAs 12-step program through her blog **LeavingAA**. She had received hundreds of emails from the people who are harmed, sexually abused, psychologically and emotionally affected by members of AA. In AA people might be sitting next to Aunt Sally, who’s a teacher or to Johnny, who’s a normal guy. But the other guy might be a paedophile and a criminal.She put herself to make AA safer for the people. To bring awareness she produced a documentary about sexual and financial exploitation in 12-step groups is known as **13th Step**. The 13th Step is a euphemism for sex, violent and theft-type offenders.

Introduction and Background of AA in late 19’s:

In the 19th century, AA started as an outgrowth of the Oxford group which was a fundamentalist religious organization. The belief of the Oxford group is sins and the problems of man are due to nob being close enough to God. It was Bill, a member of the Oxford group and who was very smart about media. He knew that he had to modify the words in the group to appeal to a wider audience. So, God became a higher power, even though the word God is in five different steps. And he went out of his ways to say the higher power can be anything you want to be*. “It can be a doorknob, as they often say in AA.”*

From the wisdom he gained from the Oxford group, Bill Wilson published the “Big Book” that outlines the 12 steps of AA in 1939. The first 164 pages of Big Book of AA have never been updated.

When AA was established in 1935, it entered a vacuum in the United States. Prohibition had just ended a couple of years before. Neither treatment nor mutual help groups available for Alcoholism during those times. Alcoholic Anonymous and other organizations are combatting on alcoholism gained ground, bringing the public a sense of true nature of the problem. The director of the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism, Mrs. Marty Mann said – “*Alcoholism has too long been a taboo subject, just as tuberculosis used to be 40 years ago. We’re trying to teach people the truth, that alcoholism is a disease, and that because it is disease, it should have no stigma attached to it. Alcoholics should be dealt with like other sick persons, in hospitals and clinic, not in jails.”*

People notion about Alcoholism and AA:

People start with the beliefs that alcoholism is a chronic, progressive fatal disease from which you will die unless you get treatment and go to 12-step meetings. Alcoholism is behavior, not a disease. – *“A behavior cannot be a disease because there’s something that causes the behavior. The bottle does not open itself and pour itself into your mouth. That’s not how it works.”*

AA is a non-profit corporation that follows certain rules as Boy Scouts and Catholic Churches do. When people truly enter a 12-step Fellowship, the idea is that they will never be capable of solving the problems by themselves and they will always need a sponsor, a group and a higher power in order to do it.

Vicinity of AA:

*“What we say repeatedly, the addiction is not you. And what is AA say? The first thing you have to say is, I am an alcoholic. You have to declare.”* – Stanton Peele, Ph.D. (Addition Specialist).

People who register for the 12-step fellowship, should attend the meetings every day else they end up being alcoholic, back on the street and going to prison. The 12th step of AA is the proselytizing step. We will go out and spread the word to others. When you proselytize, you’re trying to join people. AA knows the true path and although our ideas are in the 1930s, nothing new has changed. Nothing has changed our ideas in the last 75 years.

Sexual perverts and violent offenders attending AA meetings are even unknown to the AA members. Sixty to Eighty percent of the people in group are accused. They are sent there by drug courts, probation officers and treatment centers. Taking people and ordering them to go to AA, especially woman’s and a young girl’s putting them in AA is extremely unsafe. Registered sex offenders were working as counselors. It’s an unequal relationship in terms of power and people who are sex offenders as many of them have shown a propensity for exploiting those kinds of relationship. And so, it like a uniquely unsuitable background for a counselor. One case, in particular, was a woman who had a long history of theft-type offenses, and she became a counselor, she proceeded to steal $50,000 from a client. It’s not just sex offenses. One might want to screen a counselor for other types of offenses.

*“Sometimes a good surgeon will say, I’m sorry, I don’t recommend that kind of operation I do for you because it won’t help you. AA never says that.”* But that’s a serious deficit. If you are going for treatment for a major problem. They don’t know when they are inappropriate.

In 2009, AA got anonymous letter from California concerning about sexual abuse for which the board member replied, “we don’t have a position. Every group is autonomous. They take no responsibilities for those things at all. And they not gonna speak out about it.’’ Why these issues are confronting of law? Because people conceiving themselves is the idea of whole anonymity. They think they can’t go and tell anybody, who they knew there, who they met there.

Case Study:

Myth: “People assume AA is a safe and regulated environment.”

“Instead of jail time, they are being sent to AA meetings where they prey on young people.”

Karla Brada was murdered on September 1st, 2011 by Eric Alan Earle that she met in an AA meeting. He pretty much found out that she owned a condominium and had a brand-new car and an excellent job. And of course, the main thing for him was that she had a 401k. He always sits next to her and never let anybody get close to her. Eric stayed with Karla and after four months she was found dead. He was sentenced 26 years of life in jail. He has been a fellow member in AA over 20 years, still drinking and being aggressive. His criminal record started in 12-06, 1991 charged for assault, battery, and vandalism. He has 22 years old record and eight restraining orders on him including his ex-wife. Through the court system, he has sent 52 times in AA meetings by the courts. It changed the people notion that rehabs are unsafe.

Other incident was a girl victim trapped by a man in an AA meeting. He habitat the girl with dope for which she was kicked out of the home. Taking advantage of the situation, he lived with the girl doping and made her a slave sexually, physically, mentally, cooking and cleaning. He forced her for sex, telling her that I’m doing this for you. You’re gonna do what I want you to do. You were nowhere to go. What the hell you gonna do? Nobody wants you. I’m all you have.

Richardson contacted AA for comment on this story and asked about the organization’s handling of what appears to be a rampant problem. In responses, she got two pamphlets released in 2017, “[**Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare**](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-209_en.pdf)” and “[**Safety Card for AA Meetings**](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf).”

Conclusion:

The only way AA is going to make any changes, or even get their attention to make changes, is to file a law suit against them. And if a jury tells them that they need to change the way they’re doing business, then they will.