

# Happily and Usefully Whole

## AA Responsibility Statement

*I am responsible.  
When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of AA  
always to be there. And for  
that I am responsible.*

## How It Works—Area 33 Corrections Committee

As with any business AA is always looking for new "customers" and we have a source with a big need for AA in our SE Michigan correctional facilities. There are statistics that state 85-90% of those incarcerated are there due to drug- and/or alcohol-related crimes.

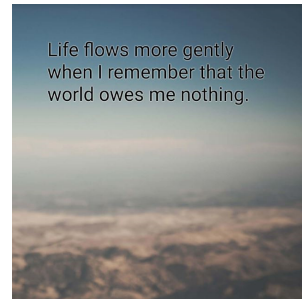
Area 33 Corrections brings the AA message of hope to over 15 facilities in SE Michigan, including prisons, jails, youth homes, and alternate incarcerations facilities. We are fortunate to have a great volunteer network of approximately 125 AA members. These volunteers are instrumental in providing many ways for those incarcerated to find AA. The core of what we do centers around four key activities.

1. Meetings are critical on the inside and our volunteers facilitate from four to twenty-eight meetings each month in the facilities we visit. Click on the *Events* link at [aa-semi.org](http://aa-semi.org) and then on *Flyers* to see some of the opportunities available to you.
2. Literature is another important piece of the puzzle. Jail Pails, district donations, and more are integral in raising the funds needed to insure there is AA-approved literature to distribute to the AA members on the inside.
3. Correspondence is another great way to carry the message. When attending meetings inside is not an option volunteers write via US mail or the internal facility systems provided. The GSO and Area 33 supports this important effort.
4. Pre-Release is a critical component in insuring that those being released from a facility are able to connect to their local AA community. Volunteers are ready to meet and escort the newly released to their first meeting.

Corrections work is important and rewarding Twelfth Step work—we are Responsible! To get involved in our committee's work, come to our monthly meeting (at 10:00a before the monthly Area Assembly meeting—visit [aa-semi.org](http://aa-semi.org) and click on the *Assembly Meeting* link at the upper right corner for dates and location. Or e-mail me at [area33correctionschair@aa-semi.org](mailto:area33correctionschair@aa-semi.org).

—CS

District 20 of Area 33 represents nearly 100 AA groups that meet in Auburn Hills, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Goodison, Lake Angelus, Lake Orion, Lakeville, Orion Twp., Leonard, Oxford, part of Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Troy. The District meets at 6:45p the last TU of every month (except December) at Unity of Rochester on Harding St. in Rochester Hills. Anyone can come to our meetings.



Life flows more gently  
when I remember that the  
world owes me nothing.

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## Carrying the Message to Those Unable to Attend Meetings

Early 2017 was a hard patch of road for me. Kidney problems and the septicemia that they led me to had me bouncing between the hospital and a rehab center for 11 weeks. On more than one occasion, I awoke with no idea where I'd spend the night. Would the hospital transfer me to the rehab (as they did on three occasions), discharge me (my two trips back to my apartment lasted for four and 30 hours before I had to be ambulated back to the ER), or reluctantly keep me for another night? And much of the time I was watching the clock, eagerly awaiting my next allowed dose of *Neurontin* or *Norco*. Thank God pills hold no allure for me.

My AA friends helped me keep my sanity. Not only did I call my sponsor Willy M. almost daily, he visited me once or twice each week. Other sobriety friends also visited, and I was able to participate on three or four occasions by speaker phone in my semi-regular Thursday noon meeting, the *Men's Twelve Steps Group* in Birmingham. (The precedent for that practice had been set by a regular participant who winters in Florida.)

But especially meaningful to me were the two occasions when friends brought meetings to my room in the rehab center. (My roommate there kindly agreed to vacate the premises for those events.) I will be eternally grateful to John T., John W., John W's sponsee (another John whose last name I don't remember), and Don D. for bringing an evening meeting to me and to John T. and Pat H., who brought a daytime meeting to me.

Memories of those meetings are why I've signed up for the current campaign by the Area 33 Accessibilities Committee to compile a roster of AA members willing to carry meetings to other members who are either homebound or confined to a medical institution.

And when I was finally pain-free enough to be completely discharged and reluctantly accepted that I wasn't quite well enough to return to unassisted living, my AA friends Julie C., Phil M., Ron C., Chris H., Matthew K., Rob J., Randy L, and Ben W. (and I'm probably overlooking someone here) assisted my relatives in moving my belongings from my 1BR apartment in Royal Oak into my 1BR apartment in the senior living community I now reside in in Hazel Park.

I am truly blessed to have friends like these, and I owe it all to the AA program that binds us.

—DM



## Area 33 Accessibilities

Are you, or do you know of an AA member unable to attend meetings because of accessibility issues?

Hearing, visually, mentally, or physically impaired, language barrier? Bed bound or chronically ill?



AA members who encounter a barrier between them and the AA message need your help!

If you are in need or interested in this type of service, please notify the AA Area 33 Accessibilities Committee

248 274 6055

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, call the Accessibilities Chair at 248.274.6055 or e-mail them at: [area33accessibilitieschair@aa-semi.org](mailto:area33accessibilitieschair@aa-semi.org). (The e-mail address on at least some of the flyers that have been circulated is incomplete.)

## District 20 Event Report: You Made Me Feel Welcome

When a friend invited me to the **District 16/District 20 Joint Unity Picnic** at Boulan Park in Troy on September 14<sup>th</sup>, I decided to go. Being confined to a wheelchair and living in a senior living community, I don't get many chances to go out except on group bus outings or when my daughter takes me out for shopping expeditions or restaurant meals. And to the dialysis clinic three mornings a week.

I had a perfectly lovely afternoon. The weather was great and the food was fine, though I had to surrender my *Mountain Dew* to bees who apparently wanted it more than I did. I'm told the celebratory sheet cake was lovely, but I only got to see my (delicious) piece of it.

My friend introduced me to many of his friends, and they all were very nice to me. I even had a chance to engage in conversations with some of them.

Though I haven't drunk alcohol in several years, I never had a problem with drinking. I'm pretty convinced that my late husband was an alcoholic, though, and my daughter and son-in-law are active AA members. (They hoped to get to the picnic but had too busy a day due to her sponsor's wedding.) Both my daughter and the friend who brought me to the picnic have told me quite a bit about what AA is and does, but the two speakers at the event gave me a better understanding of why you people go to all those meetings and make so many phone calls to each other.

It was obvious that many people worked hard to make this event happen. I admire you for your commitment to sobriety and the way you care for each other.

Thank you to everyone at the picnic for making me feel so welcome. I understand that this is an annual event, and I hope to be invited again next summer.

—AP

## District 20 Officers

A reader (*Georganne—we actually got sort of a fan e-mail. I'm so excited!*) that this publication list the District 20 officers, committee chairs (we really don't have any, but we're working on it), and the newsletter editor in each issue. Since that reader asked so nicely, we are:

|                                     |              |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| District Committee Member           | Georganne G. | How It Works<br>(Lake Orion)         |
| Alternate District Committee Member | Dick M.      | Troy Dignitaries                     |
| Secretary                           | Kathy M.     | Surrender Group<br>(Troy)            |
| Treasurer                           | Shannon H.   | Saturday Morning Live<br>(Rochester) |
| Newsletter Editor                   | Dick M.      | Troy Dignitaries                     |

Copy deadline for our next issue is tentatively November 17th. Send your contributions (announcements of group events, group profiles, poetry, artwork, even general musings about recovery) to [3320.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:3320.newsletter@gmail.com).

# AA Comes to the ‘D’

## Here’s the Scoop on the 2020 AA International Convention

- **When?**

TH July 2<sup>nd</sup>-SUN July 5<sup>th</sup>

- **Where?**

Downtown Detroit.

The opening *Party in the Park* will be held Thursday evening at Hart Plaza.

Marathon meetings will be held in English and Spanish at the **TCF Center** (which Michiganders will continue to refer to as **Cobo Hall** for the foreseeable future—and that’s the name that appears in pre-Conference promotional literature) on FR and SAT, as will a broad range of topic meetings, workshops, panels, special interest meetings, and regional meetings.

Conventiongoers will amble up Woodward or take the Q-Line trolley to **Ford Field** for the Flag Ceremony and Opening Meeting on FR night, for the Oldtimers AA Meeting on SAT night, and for the Closing AA Meeting on SUN am.

And there will be more dancing and fellowship opportunities at ~~Cobo Hall~~ **TCF Center** (*this is getting old*) following the FR and SAT night mass meetings at **Ford Field**.

- **Will there be an app for this?**

You betcha!

- **Will there be Al-Anon and Alateen activities?**

A variety of daytime activities including meetings (in English, Spanish, and French), panels, and workshops will be held at the **Marriott Hotel at the Renaissance Center**.

- **Will there be a souvenir book?**

Two of them.

The 2020 International Convention souvenir book will be *A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous: From the Archives*. It’s been described as “a celebration of AA’s history told in informative short passages and stunning archival images from the General Service Office’s Archives Department.” If you preorder the book while registering for the Convention before May 15, 2020, it will be mailed to your home. Individuals who order the book while registering after that date will have to pick up their books at ~~Cobo Hall~~ **TCF Center**. And to celebrate the Convention, *The Grapevine* has published a special commemorative edition of the book *Grapevine Daily Quotes*. The same deadlines and delivery/pickup provisions apply to this book as to the *Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous* book.

- **How do I register for the 2020 International Convention?**

If your group has a General Service Representative who has properly registered with the General Service Office, s/he should have received a package of Conference flyers that include the registration form that can be mailed with your payment. Or you can go to the AA Web site ([aa.org](http://aa.org)) and click on the *International Convention—July 2-5, 2020 Detroit Michigan* link at the bottom of the page.

- **How much will the registration cost me?**

\$115 (or \$150 if you’re paying in Canadian currency). That’s if you register by April 15, 2020. After that, the fee rises to \$140 (or \$185 in Canadian currency).

- **Will I be able to register on-site**

Yes. But remember that the registration fee rises from \$115 to \$140 after April 15.

- **How can I help?**

Former Area 33 Delegate Carlyle W., Bob C., and Christine H. comprise the Core Committee of the **2020 International Convention Volunteer Welcome Core Committee**. Based on the experience of organizers for previous Conventions elsewhere, they're hoping to form 14 subcommittees:

**Convention Center Greeters**—Volunteers will welcome guests at the Cobo Center (*I give up!*) as well as directing traffic within the Convention Center from Wednesday morning through Saturday evening.

**Foreign Languages**—Volunteers will staff a special booth from Wednesday morning through Sunday morning to help ensure the comfort and convenience of guests for whom English is not a native language. The booth is in the Convention Center, and will be accessible by phone.

**Ford Field Greeters**—Volunteers will greet visitors arriving for the three large meetings scheduled at the stadium Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning.

**Guest Welcome and Volunteer Headquarters Room**—Volunteers on this small committee will be staffing the volunteer headquarters at the Convention Center as well as attending to details of welcoming special guests (non-AA professional guests) as needed.

**Hotel Lobby Greeters**—Volunteers will staff information tables in hotel lobbies in downtown Detroit and in key suburban hotel sites from Thursday morning until Saturday evening.

**Marathon Meetings**—Volunteers will chair and host the various marathon meetings from Thursday evening to Sunday morning.

**Registration**—Some of these volunteers will staff the registration area in COBO Center. They may provide badge holders and information packets to those who are pre-registered. Others may staff the information tables for questions about the Convention. A third set of volunteers may assist the professional firm handling on-site registration.

**Shuttle Bus Greeters**—Volunteers will be stationed at convention shuttle bus service drop-off and pickup points at peak hours from Thursday morning to Sunday early afternoon to help all Convention attendees using Bus Services to and from convention hotels, the Convention Center and Ford Field.

**Sidewalk Greeters and Thursday Night Event in the Park**—Volunteers will be stationed at the Downtown Core and on sidewalks near the nexus of Convention activities from Thursday afternoon until Saturday evening.

**Accessibilities**—These volunteers will be a source of information for physically challenged and other individuals who feel the need for additional support. Their booth is in the Convention Center, and they will also be present at the Ford Field for the Big Speaker Meetings.

**Topic Meeting Greeters & Counters**—These volunteers will greet members as they attend the topic meetings during the day Friday and Saturday in the COBO Center, and provide estimated counts of the numbers of participants.

**Transportation Hub Greeters**—These volunteers will greet our visitors at the airport, train stations, and bus depots. They will guide them toward transportation to their local destinations.

**Volunteer Kick-Off Meeting & Training Orientation**—Volunteers will help set up and organize the official start of the 2020 International Convention Volunteer Welcome Committee activities. The goal of the Kick-Off Meeting is to provide information about the volunteer process and to sign up volunteers for the various subcommittees. The May Training is the orientation meeting for volunteers.

**Central Office Liaison**—The Welcome Core Committee assigns a liaison to the local central office. The liaison attends Welcome Committee meetings and keeps the Central Office up to date on International Convention activities

All of this is constantly evolving. Monitor the Area 33 Web site ([aa-semi.org](http://aa-semi.org)) for announcements.

# What's Going on in District 20 and Beyond

## Upcoming Events

- **District 21 and 22** present a **Celebrating the AA Grapevine** workshop to commemorate the publication's 70th anniversary. SAT October 12<sup>th</sup> from 11a-3p at New Life Presbyterian Church (11300 19-Mile Rd. in Sterling Heights. Lunch will be provided. Speaker will be Warren J. from Area 34.
- The **Area 33 Assembly** will meet at 12:00n on SUN October 13<sup>th</sup> at the UFCW union hall on Horace Brown Dr. in Madison Heights. Lunch will be provided. Committee chairs will be elected.
- The **Acceptance Group** will celebrate its 16th anniversary with a buffet dinner following a talk by Chris K. at 7p on FR October 18<sup>th</sup>. 50/50 raffle and DJ. Halloween costume optional.
- **Flatrock #1 group** will present an **Emotional Sobriety and Sponsorship** workshop on SAT October 19<sup>th</sup> from 12n-4p at St. Constance Church (2155 Kinnon St. in Taylor. Lunch will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring a dish to pass.
- The **Michigan Statewide Corrections Conference** will be from 11a-3p on SAT October 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Lutheran Gymnasium (23801 Kelly Rd. in Eastpointe.
- **District 20 officers and GSRs** will meet at 6:45p on TU October 29<sup>th</sup> at Unity of Rochester Church on Harding Avenue in Rochester Hills.
- **Area 33 General Services** will present **Celebrating A.A. in Detroit: A.A. Beyond the Group** from 11a-3p on SAT November 16<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church (960 E. Jefferson in Detroit). Refreshments will be provided.
- The **Area 33 Assembly** will meet at 12:00n on SUN November 17<sup>th</sup> at the UFCW union hall on Horace Brown Dr. in Madison Heights. Lunch will be provided. The proposed 2020 budget will be presented for discussion.
- **District 20 officers and GSRs** will meet at 6:45p on TU November 26<sup>th</sup> at Unity of Rochester Church on Harding Avenue in Rochester Hills.
- The **Area 33 Assembly** will meet at 12:00n on SUN, December 8<sup>th</sup> at the UFCW union hall on Horace Brown Dr. in Madison Heights. Lunch will be provided.
- **District 20 officers and GSRs** will not meet at 6:45p on TU December 29<sup>th</sup> at Unity of Rochester Church on Harding Avenue in Rochester Hills. As good alcoholics, we'll be starting our New Year celebration early.
- **2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous** will be held from July 2-5, 2020 in Detroit, with the major events planned for Ford Field. Information about the event can be found at [www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/international-convention-2020](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/international-convention-2020).



## Changes in District 20 Meetings/Groups

- None that we know of.