

District 14 Newsletter

March 2021 Volume #3

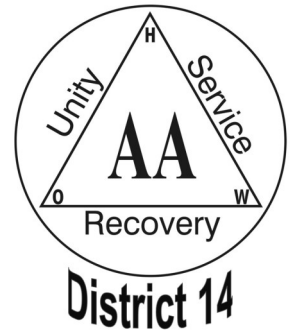
Name your Newsletter
contest name needed!



This is the third volume of the District 14 newsletter. We need a cool name. We are looking for an AA in our district to come up with a title. The district will be awarding a first edition Big Book (Reprint) to the winning member with the selected new title. Include "name contest" in the subject line

Send entries to

1433newsletter@gmail.com



How many people are needed to hold an AA Meeting?

Well, to answer the above question, from the AA literature, the purpose of any AA meeting is to share our Experience, Strength and Hope with each other, that we may solve our common problem. Thus, there should at least be two persons present at a meeting. It is pointless to share with yourself only. Afterall, you got where you are at in the first place.

That said, let me share an experience. I was rather new to AA. I decided that I needed to go on a camping trip by myself to get away to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and clear my head. One of my planned AA meetings was near a tiny map dot town near Tahquamenon Falls.

I entered the small, lone, shed like municipal building along the highway and was greeted by a married couple. There was a beautifully decorated chocolate cake on one of the two tables that were set up. It read, "Welcome!". As the meeting start time came, there was still just the three of us. I inquired as to whether this was just a slow time of the season, due to it being Fall? "No", they said, "The most we ever have is five or so". I thought, "What a waste of time. The money I placed in the basket would certainly not even pay for the cake, much less the few pieces of literature displayed."

We started the Open Meeting, as all Detroit Metro meetings start, with the Serenity Prayer and the readings. I was given two to read, the couple read the others. I was still feeling like this was a waste of time. However, as the meeting progressed and we started sharing, my scrutiny of the little meeting melted like butter in the sun. There was laughter and there were tears. There were messages I just did not hear in my regular meetings back home. And, at the end of the meeting, we enjoyed pieces of delicious cake and talked some more. I was there for hours.

The point of this story is, if you walk into a meeting and there is almost no one there, STAY. It just might be the meeting you need at that moment in time. It certainly was for me.

-Bob F-



Your newsletter will be published online at the Area 33 web site and printed and is created by volunteers that need your help. What would you like in your newsletter? We encourage members to submit stories, quips, comics, AA events, or other points of focus you would like to see. What would help? Questions, comments, suggestions and article submissions should be sent to

1433newsletter@gmail.com

3rd Tradition

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking"

*"You are an A.A. member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out.
Twelve and Twelve PG 139*

Lots of us have taken months and years of "return trips" in the program to gain true and lasting sobriety. I personally have sat in the parking lot drinking and searching for the strength to walk into the meeting. Some days I was drunk and had booze on my breath but was able to go in. Every time drunk or not, I was hurting and looking for the solution. Every time I was welcomed and thanked for my share. When leaving it was clear I would be welcomed back. Years before attaining sobriety A.A. was a safe place for me, no matter what I had done, what I did for alcohol and how lost I was. I was a welcomed member of A.A. years before I was ready for sobriety.

As a young man in 1992 in my first round with A.A. at my first meeting ever another member looked at me after I shared and said "I've spilled more liquor than you drank". At the time he may have been right. I have heard the saying "an alcoholic hits bottom when he stops digging". Who is to say where our bottom is? Each individual member is for themselves. Even the judge who sends some of us to meetings can not make us 'buy in' nor ought we discourage other members from attending. The Twelve and Twelve tells us "we are not afraid of you, no matter what you have done".

"What would the Master do?" Twelve and Twelve Pg. 143

Andy R G.S.R. Never Too Late

3rd Step

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him"

*"Therefore, we who are alcoholics can consider ourselves fortunate indeed. Each of us has had his own near-fatal encounter with the juggernaut of self-will, and has suffered enough under its weight to be willing to look for something better."
Twelve and Twelve PG 37-38*

As a drinking alcoholic my self will was the only way. Every morning I woke with the honest intent not to drink. Then I would just have one, and like that, I was off to the races yet again. My will led me further down the rabbit hole of pain and despair. Every day was spent trying to fill the hole in my soul. During my earlier days in A.A. I followed the path described as often taken in the Twelve and Twelve and trusted in a sober A.A. friend. My sponsor became a power greater than myself simply because he was a voice of reason I was able to listen to. It was not until I made continued and focused attempts to pray and meditate that the guidance of my Higher Power became an active part of my recovery. A big issue I struggled with was having a clear vision of God. It was not until I gave up on the need to picture the "man in the sky" and simply listened for the care of God that I was able to trust in. Starting with the 'Gift Of Desperation' and then a 'Group Of Drunks' what I realize now looking back is that my Higher Power has always been there for me to trust in. For me step three is simply making the decision to not try my own will power anymore and to trust His will, not mine.

Andy R. G.S.R. Never Too Late
AndyDetroitAA@yahoo.com

Meetings of the Month in person and online

Online

In person

Always Hope

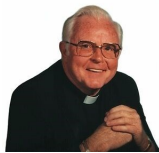
Friday 6pm

Garden City Presbyterian Church

1841 Middlebelt RD, Garden City

Open meeting focusing on steps 1 through 3

GSR - Sheila 734-915-9286



Father Martin Study

Wednesdays at 7pm

Zoom: 847 743 32926 PW: 990096

Paul K dcm14@aa-semi.org



The District 14
Campout

Oscoda County
Campground

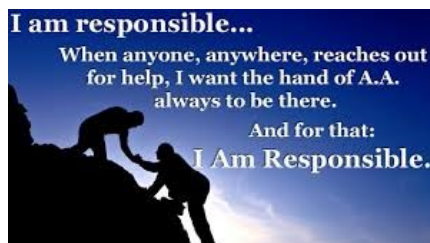
July 16-18

For info and to
register

Michiganmockconference.com

March Round Up 2021

was a leap in AA online events. District 14 would like to thank Renee E, from Maryland, for sharing how she did it. I was really surprised how personable the online open talk was on Sunday. It felt like sitting across her kitchen table listening to her talk. As if we were sitting across a real table at an AA in-person meeting. Her story told of many trials through sobriety and the challenges life put into her path. I would recommend for anyone to join district 14 with their March Round Up online video events. We will be providing access to each open talk in the coming months. **Paul Kopcak - DCM**



Our District Officers

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