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# THE LINK



## DISTRICT 52 & YOU

Volume 11, Issue 6

June 2011



### *LOST SHEEP ANNUAL PICNIC*

*Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Noon, at Island Park in Momence.*

*Group supplies meat & veggies, please bring a side dish to share.*

*There will be fun and games for the whole family plus  
FREE fishing so bring your lawn chairs & fishing gear.*

### *MY HIGHER POWER*

*I was asked to write what my conception of a Higher Power is. It took me a long time to “come to believe” in a God but after hanging around AA long enough it finally happened. I know there is someone or something or a Divine Entity that runs the universe. I believe we didn’t just evolve from apes. We are as people, all different. There has never been a person in this world, past, present or future like me or you.*

*Human beings and dolphins have great powers of mind. I believe very strongly that God is the Divine mind that runs through every single atom of the universe. God is a power that we can tap into at our own level of spiritual development. I also believe that I can physically alter things in my life by my thought patterns. I believe that God may be separate from me now but someday I will perhaps become a part of God after I have my transition into a high realm.*

*I really used to make things happen with my mind before I got sick. I believe that a person BELIEVES in something and pictures it that it will come to pass. Sometimes when I am sick and get confused and paranoid, I lie down and really pray to God to save me. I see God in other people that are ascending the ladder of a spiritual life. I also see a negative force of evil that some people are descending because we have the ability to choose to live good or bad. Some people are evil and are putting their souls in jeopardy if they keep on the downward spiral. They will lose their souls and go into oblivion, eternally perhaps.*

*~Submitted by Sean D.*

#### **The Link needs YOU!!**

*Share your experience, strength and hope with the newcomer and/or still suffering alcoholic. Give it to one of the newsletter committee members listed on the back, or mail it to:*

District 52, PO Box 265, Bradley IL 60915

Answering Service: 1-815-939-4996

District 52 AA Website: [www.aa-kankakee.org](http://www.aa-kankakee.org)

NIA AA Website: [www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)

E-mail the Editor Dawn M: [d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org](mailto:d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org)

## EDITORIAL

“God as we understood Him”—where did it come from? Quoting from the April 2011 Link: “God as We Understood Him” did this much misunderstood expression come from the atheist Jim Burwell? Jim said so.” I cannot find in AA approved literature Jim Burwell ever making the claim it came from him. In his story in the Big Book “The Vicious Cycle” (p.229, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.) “...so my only contribution to their literary efforts was my firm conviction since I was still a theological rebel—that the word God should be qualified with the phrase ‘as we understand Him.’—for that was the only way I could accept spirituality.

In the book “Pass It On...the story of Bill Wilson and how the AA message reached the world” (p.199) it states:

“Ruth Hock said that Bill appeared in the office one day with the steps practically complete. But when he showed the manuscript to local members, there were heated discussions and many other suggestions. Jimmy B. opposed the strong references to God in both the steps and the rest of the early chapters; Hank wanted to soft-pedal them; but Fitz insisted that the book should express Christian doctrines and use Biblical terms and expressions. Ruth remembers: “Fitz was going all the way with God; you (Bill) were in the middle; Hank was for very little; and I—trying to reflect the reaction of the non-alcoholic—was for very little. The result of this was the phrase “God as we understood Him” which I don’t think ever had much of a negative reaction any where.”

“Bill regarded these changes as ‘concessions to those of little or no faith’ and called them ‘the great contribution of our atheists and agnostics.’ They had widened our gateway so that all who suffer might pass through, regardless of their belief or lack of belief.”

We should always use AA approved literature when we are sharing AA history. If we use literature outside of AA to share history we take the risk of re-writing our program with other agendas.

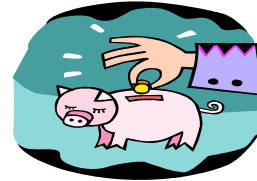
I believe over the years there has always been an effort to narrow the gate of entry into AA. Thanks to Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob and the other early members, AA was constructed to enable everyone who had alcoholism the opportunity to receive this life saving message. Our Third Tradition guarantees: “The only requirement for AA membership is the desire to stop drinking.” Thank God for the traditions; they will keep us from destroying ourselves. ~John M.

## District 52 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

District Finances as of May 18, 2011:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Account Balance                                | \$3346.60  |
| Prudent Reserve                                | \$2000.00  |
| Above Prudent Reserve                          | \$ 1346.60 |
| Monthly 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition from Groups* | \$210.19   |
| Monthly Expenses                               | \$549.00   |
| Cash flow/month                                | \$-338.31  |
| Ending Balance                                 | \$3007.79  |

\*Thanks to: **Men’s Step Study, Sunday Night Action Group, and Women to Women** for their donations.



District 52 provides printed meeting schedules, our monthly newsletter, “The Link,” the answering service, public information literature at places such as the courthouse for the still suffering alcoholic, and they host four workshops per year. The GSR and committee chairs decide where and when the money goes.

### **We need more groups participating in District Support....IS YOURS?**

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.

## THANK YOU for your SERVICE!

A big thank you goes to Kelly W. for her dedicated service on the Link Committee. She did a terrific job both as proof-reader and “Chief of Distribution”. Due to her recent commitment to a “paying” job, she has resigned from the committee. I would like to welcome Paula J. as a new member of the committee. She will be taking over Distribution for the Link. Dawn M.

## Not a Glum Lot...



A woman staggers into a store, approaches the counter, and says to the clerk, "I'd like a half-pound each of ham and cheese and a half-dozen oranges."

The clerk replies, "You must be the town drunk, huh?"

The woman is taken aback. "How did you know that?" she asks.

The clerk looks at her carefully and says, "This is a hardware store." ~Grapevine, 9/2004

## *Along Spiritual Lines... Sixth Step Prayer*

**Step 6:** Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Dear God,  
I am ready for Your help in removing from me the defects of character which I now realize are an obstacle to my recovery. Help me to continue being honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.

## *June Anniversaries Congratulations!*

Diane M.—33 years    Debbie G.—6 years  
Sherry G.—23 years    Steve S.—4 years  
Carolyn—17 years    Scott S.—4 years  
Cynth V.—8 years    Julie C.—3 years  
Carl C.—6 years    Daphne L.—2 years  
Connie R.—6 years

If you would like to share your anniversary, please email the LINK at [d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org](mailto:d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org)

## **CORRECTIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Corrections Committee is in need of volunteers, especially men. If you have at least 6 months sobriety and are willing to "give back what you have been freely given," call Andrea M. at 708-262-9879 for more information.

Also, please remind your group to "pass the can" the first meeting of each month. This donation goes towards the purchase of literature for the correction facilities. If you are in need of a pink can, Andrea can supply one for donations.

## *Quotes to Ponder*



Be who you are, say what you feel; because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. ~Dr. Seuss

Be where you are; otherwise you will miss your life. -Buddha

No one is in control of your happiness but you; therefore, you have the power to change anything about yourself or your life that you want to change. -Barbara de Angelis

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A message from Fred B.: "Thank you all for your thoughts prayers and concern for the loss of my mother. You are my family that is always there in the time of need"

## EVENTS

**Saturday Euchre Club** at the Alano Club, be there before 3:30 p.m., \$6.00 per person.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 Spring Conference Planning Meeting**, 12:30 p.m. at the Alano Club.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> Mini-Conference Planning Meeting**, 5p.m. at the Alano Club.

**June 12<sup>th</sup> Lost Sheep Annual Picnic**, noon at Island Park, Momence. Free Fishing!

**June 18<sup>th</sup> Summer Assembly/Post-GSC Panel 60 Delegate Report**, Boylan HS, Rockford.

**June 16<sup>th</sup> District 52 GSR & Committee Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Riverside Johnson Lecture Hall. For more information contact Brian L. at 815-685-5283.

**June 21-26<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention**, Emerald Acres Campground, Pearl City, IL. Registration is required for all events. For schedule go to [www.MMAAC.org](http://www.MMAAC.org). Call Jodi S. at 815-703-6071 or Carrie Dee K. at 815-243-8046 for more information.

## Future Events

**July 22-24<sup>th</sup> East Central Regional Conference**, Columbus, IN.

**Aug. 5-7<sup>th</sup> IL State 2011 Conference**, Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, IL.

**Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> Summer Committee Meeting**, Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL, District 11 hosting.

**Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing**, \$40 for golf, cart, food; \$5.00 for food and fellowship. Tickets will be available soon.

**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 911 Feed Your Face Occurrence**, Lil's Park, 11 a.m. until ?

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Fall Assembly**, Faith Walk Outreach Center, Silvis, District 90 hosting.

**Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Committee Meeting**, Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL, District 79 hosting.

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> NIA Big Book Conference**, Hickory Grove Conf Center, Rochelle, Dist. 71 & 73 hosting.

For more information go to [www.aa-nia.org/events.html](http://www.aa-nia.org/events.html)

**The Kankakee AA Website has events, meetings and other information listed at:**

<http://aa-kankakee.org/calendar.html>

## Meetings that need you:

- **Monday** Freedom to Live at the Salvation Army at 6:30p.m.
- **Tuesday** Lost Sheep Group 12 noon at Church of Good Shepherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Locust, Momence.
- **Tuesday** Back on Track 4:15 at Mt. Olive MB Church, 650 Fairview, Bradley (behind Bill's Diner)
- **Thursday** Lost Sheep Group 12 noon at Church of Good Shepherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Locust, Momence.
- **Thursday** Big Book Study, 8 p.m. Alano Club, 1245 E. River St., Kankakee.
- **Saturday** As Bill Sees It, 9:00 p.m. United Methodist Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Manteno.
- **Sunday (every other: 6/12, 6/26)** Kankakee Terrace Disc. Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday** Sunday Night Open, 8 p.m. Discussion, Alano Club, 1245 E. River St., Kankakee

*Disclaimer: The newsletter committee apologizes for any past and present mistakes in the newsletter. The articles in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and not the newsletter committee, District 52, Area 20, or Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office.*

The newsletter committee: Dawn M. -- Heather S., Paula J.