
THE LINK



DISTRICT 52 & YOU

Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2011

THE IMPORTANCE OF A G.S.R.

Bill W. said *“The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.’s importance.”*

A group ought to choose its G.S.R. with as much care as it does in choosing its treasurer. Both are custodians of the group’s welfare. The G.S.R. should have knowledge of A.A.’s service structure, the traditions and the program. The G.S.R. is elected for a two year term, during which they should hold no other office. Two or three years of sobriety is usually required. Ability, experience and willingness to serve are essential. The attitude of the group determines how well its G.S.R. can function. Many group members actively interfere with their own G.S.R.’s efforts to involve the group in legitimate A.A. business and the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Their reason is usually an objection to “all that politics,” or “we don’t need all the stuff,” and finally they will say, “Dr. Bob said ‘Keep it simple.’” But that is an all-purpose cop-out and an effective argument against love and service. Bill W. was concerned about this exhortation to “keep it simple.” In a Grapevine article (July 1970) he says, “A return to the kitchen table era would bring no hoped-for simplicity. It could mean wholesale irresponsibility, disharmony and ineffectiveness.”

A.A. runs its own affairs, without any outside interference. So each A.A. group needs to make its voice heard on overall A.A. policies. Each group has its say in worldwide A.A. through its G.S.R. If a group does not have a good G.S.R. it is isolated from the rest of the Fellowship. It does not participate in the group conscience of A.A. as a whole.

(Excerpts from Committee Handbook & *Circles of Love & Service*)

“HOW TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE 1ST STEP MEETING” WORKSHOP

What IS a 1st Step Meeting? What is its’ purpose?

What aspects should be covered? What should NOT be included?

Sat. May 21st at the Alano Club, Cook-out 1:00 p.m, workshop to follow. (Bring a dish.)

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

NIA AA Website: www.aa-nia.org

E-mail the Editor Dawn M: d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org

Along Spiritual Lines...

Humility Quiz...

Answer the following questions honestly with either "yes" or "no":

1. Do you long to be the center of attention?
2. Do you become jealous of people who succeed?
3. Do you always have to win?
4. Do you lie to avoid looking bad?
5. Is it hard for you to acknowledge when you are wrong?
6. Do you want things "Your way or the highway?"
7. Are you inconsiderate of others?
8. Do you get upset when people fail to praise you for your achievements?
9. Do you have an attitude of entitlement?
10. Do you feel superior to others?

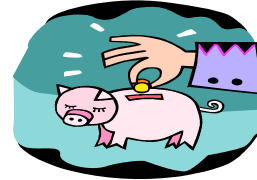
Tally up your answers. If you answered "yes" to all, then you are truly humble.

District 52 7th Tradition

District Finances as of April 16, 2011:

Account Balance	\$2724.85
Prudent Reserve	\$2000.00
Above Prudent Reserve	\$ 724.85
Monthly 7 th Tradition from Groups*	\$953.20
Monthly Expenses	\$331.67
Cash flow/month	\$621.75
Ending Balance	\$1346.60

*Thanks to: **First Things 1st, 911 Group, Jolly Time, and New Hope Sun. am** for their donations.



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.

May Anniversaries Congratulations!

Marge C.—28 years Curtis T.—4 years
Laurie R.—22 years Dave W.—4 years
Debbie K.—20 years Brenda G.—3 years
Herb B.—16 years Ron R.—1 years
Peggy M.—4 years

If you would like to share your anniversary, please email the LINK at d52-thelink@aa-kankakee.org

~ HELP WANTED ~

Volunteers, *especially women*, are needed for the Answering Service. You need only 6 months continuous sobriety. When a call for help is received, the Answering Service calls someone on the list. Please contact Paula J. at 815-468-3686 by May 15th for more information or to put your name on the list.



Spring Speaker Meeting and Dance at the Alano Club

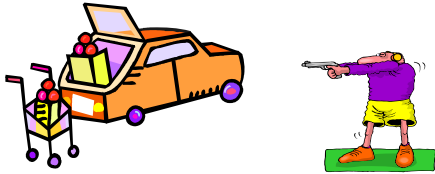


Saturday May 21, 2011; Doors open at 6:45 p.m.; Bring a dish for the Potluck at 7 p.m.

Speaker at 7:45 p.m. with Dancing from 9:00 until ?

Call Amy P. at 815-641-9181 or Andrea M. at 708-262-9879

Not a Glum Lot...



An elderly Florida lady did her shopping, and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" The four men didn't wait for a second invitation; they got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. And then it dawned on her why. A few minutes later she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down the aisle. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed. Ah, Senior Moments! ~ (this is a true story!)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Step 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 5: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

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~ Spring Conference 2012 ~

A few months ago the GSR's asked their groups whether or not we, as a district, want to host the 2012 Spring Conference. The general consensus was "yes". This is a monumental task which will require the participation of all of our groups. The planning has already begun and we have secured chair people for *some* of the positions available; however, there is a need for many more volunteers. Please attend the Planning Meetings which will be announced at your local meetings and/or sign up on one of the many sheets that are being passed around.



Quotes to Ponder

If we judge people, we have no time to love them. ~Mother Teresa

Lasting enlightenment or true spiritual growth can be achieved only through persistent exercise of real love. ~M. Scott Peck quotes

What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to us; it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God. ~Monica Baldwin quotes

Happiness comes of the capacity to feel deeply, to enjoy simply, to think freely, to risk life, to be needed. ~anonymous

EVENTS

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

April 30th 1st Step Workshop Planning Meeting, 10:45am, Riverside Board Room C (after the Primary Purpose meeting). Call Rollie H. 815-823-5949 or Ron R. 815-472-6599 for more info.

May 1st Spring Conference Planning Meeting, 12:30 p.m. at the Alano Club.

May 1-7th 61st General Service Conference, Hilton Hotel, New York, New York.

May 14th Spring Committee Meeting, Lord of Life Church, LaFox, IL.

May 14th CPC Committee Meeting, noon at the Alano Club.

May 14th Alano Club Banquet, Tuscany, Manteno. Coffee 5pm, dinner 6pm, speakers 7pm. Tickets available for \$20.00.

May 17th Golf Outing Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. at Frank C's house.

May 19th District 52 GSR & Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Riverside Johnson Lecture Hall. For more information contact Brian L. at 815-685-5283.

May 21st "How to Run an Effective 1st Step Meeting" Workshop, at the Alano Club, 1p.m. Cook-out with workshop to follow. Please bring a dish to share.

May 21st Spring Dance, Pot Luck & Speaker Meeting, Alano Club. Food 7pm, Speaker 7:45pm, Dance 9-?, 50/.50 at 9:45pm. Bring a dish to share. Amy P. 815-641-9181 or Andrea M. 708-262-9879.

Future Events

June 5th Mini-Conference Planning Meeting, 5p.m. at the Alano Club.

June 12th Lost Sheep Annual Picnic, noon at Island Park, Momence. Free Fishing!

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

July 22-24th East Central Regional Conference, Columbus, IN.

Aug. 5-7th IL State 2011 Conference, Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, IL.

Aug. 28th Annual Golf Outing, mark the date now...more info to come!

Sept. 10th 911 Feed Your Face Occurrence, Lil's Park, 11 a.m. until ?

For more information go to 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, 2nd 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, 2nd 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, 2nd Street, Manteno.
- **Sunday (every other: 5/1, 5/15, 5/29)** Kankakee Terrace Disc. Mtg, 6:30 p.m., call Dale S.
- **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. -- Kelly W., Heather S.