
THE LINK



DISTRICT 52 & YOU

Volume 11, Issue 8

August 2011

The Bike Ride...

At first I saw God as my observer my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like the President. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on when I recognized my Higher Power, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that God was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since...life with my Higher Power, that is. God makes life interesting.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said "pedal."

I worried and was anxious and asked "Where are You taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, God's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it. But He knew bike secrets, knew how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high places filled with rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, my Higher Power.

And when I'm sure I can't do any more, He just smiles and says, "PEDAL!"

~#139, The 12 Step Prayer Book

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...

I shall do so much in the years to come,
But what have I done today?

I shall give out gold in princely sum,
But what did I give today?

I shall lift a heart and dry a tear,
I shall plant a hope in place of fear,
I shall speak with words of love and cheer.
But what have I done today?

I shall be so kind in the after while,
But what have I been today?

I shall bring to each lonely life a smile,
But what have I brought today?

I shall give to truth a greater birth,
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,
I shall feed the hungry soul of earth,
But whom have I fed today?

~Handles and Hodge Podge

MEN WANTED!!!

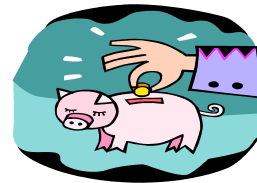
The Corrections Committee is in desperate need of men (they are down to 2) who are willing to go attend meetings at the correction centers. If you are willing to help out—or just want more information—please call Andrea at 708-262-9879.

District 52 7th Tradition

District Finances as of August 16, 2011:

Account Balance	\$ 2877.84
Prudent Reserve	\$2000.00
Above Prudent Reserve	\$ 877.84
Monthly 7 th Tradition from Groups*	\$ 393.00
Monthly Expenses	\$ 318.04
Cash flow/month	\$ 74.96
Ending Balance	\$2952.80

*Thanks to: **BLT, Hear-Here Gilman, 911, and Primary Purpose** 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.

August Anniversaries

Jerry F.—28 yrs. Heather S.—20 yrs.
Tim C.—26 yrs. Alice C.—11 yrs.
George D.—23 yrs. Michele L.—6 yrs.
Dave W.—21 yrs. Joe R.—5 yrs.
Bob—20 years Chris M.—4 yrs.

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

11th Annual Golf Outing

Shamrock Golf Course, August 28th

Tickets: **\$40.00** for golf, golf cart & food; **\$5.00** food & fellowship

Donations are needed for prizes, please call Joe R. at **708-906-4751**



Not a Glum Lot...

The tipsy captain of an old freighter saw what looked like the light of another ship on a collision course with his. He signaled, "Change your course ten degrees to the east," but the reply came back directing him to turn ten degrees west. He sent a stronger message: "I'm a Navy captain. Change your course!" The message came back: "I'm a seaman second class, but you'd better turn your ship." Infuriated, the captain answered, "I'm a battleship. Get out of my way!" The final message came: "I'm a lighthouse. Do as you please."
~R.L., British Columbia, AA Grapevine, March 1985

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Step 8: Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Tradition 8: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Concept 8: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercised by the founders, necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

~Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Quotes to Ponder

Watch your thoughts.

They become words.

Watch your words.

They become actions.

Watch your actions.

They become habits.

Watch your habits.

They become your character.

Watch your character.

It becomes your destiny.

~ unknown

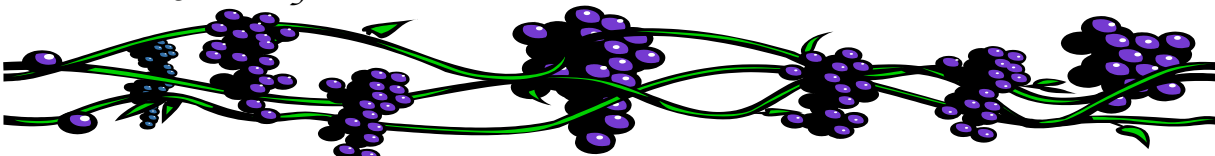
ANNUAL GRAPEVINE PICNIC

Sunday, August 28th at Noon

Lil's Park 1373 E. North Street, Bradley, just east of Rte. 50

Bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, and games to play

For information call Herb B. at 815-651-7896



EVENTS

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

July 31st Mini-Conference Planning Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Alano Club.

Aug. 3rd Spring Conference Planning Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Alano Club.

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

Aug. 13th Summer Committee Meeting, Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL, District 11 hosting.

Aug. 13th Annual Clifton Pool Party, Dinner 5pm, swimming 6-8pm. Hot dogs, burgers & drinks provided, please bring a side dish to share. Donation of \$3 suggested. Call Janice T. 815-405-7223 or Gilbert M. 815-666-8673.

Aug 18th District 52 GSR & Trustee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Johnson Lecture Hall, Riverside Hospital. Call Brian L. at 815-685-5283 for more details.

Aug. 27th 33rd Annual Unity Newsletter Banquet, 4-8 p.m., Ingalls Park A.C., Joliet; AA Speaker Kelly H. Tickets \$25, contact Vonnie T. 815-641-7742, Carl P. 815-723-2819, Emmie O. 815-744-1390.

Aug. 28th Annual Golf Outing, \$40 for golf, golf cart & food; \$5.00 for food and fellowship. Purchase tickets now. Donations are needed for prizes: Contact Joe R. at 708-906-4751 or jreising1@sbcglobal.net

Aug. 28th Grapevine Picnic, Lil's Park at noon. Bring a dish to share and games to play.

Future Events

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

Sept. 17th Fall Assembly, Faith Walk Outreach Center, Silvis, District 90 hosting.

Oct. 22nd Fall Committee Meeting, Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL, District 79 hosting.

Oct. 29th A Common Solution Big Book Conference, Rochelle IL

Nov. 5th Kankakee Area Mini-Conference, Civic Auditorium at Gov. Small Park, Kankakee. \$10.00.

Nov. 11-13th East Central Regional Forum, Holiday Inn Dayton Hotel, Miamisburg, OH. No registration fee. Register online at www.aa.org, go to "Services for Members," then click on Forums.

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:

- **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: 8/7, 8/21)** Kankakee Terrace Disc. Mtg, 6:30 p.m., call Dale S.
- **Sunday Night Action** 6:30 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrison & Station St., Kankakee.
- **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. – Paula J., Heather S.