

HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE

District Voices

Local members share on a thought, topic, experience or story relating to their success in recovery.

Sponsorship

Early on in sobriety I felt hopeless & overwhelmed by a seemingly insurmountable pile of problems to clean up—family relationship problems, self-esteem problems, financial problems, housing problems, transportation problems, employment problems, legal problems, on and on and on. I was full of fear & worry about cleaning my mess up and also about staying sober. I didn't trust myself to stay sober. I was full of negative "self-talk" and often felt too much effort would be needed to climb out of the hole I'd dug & eventually, I'd relapse & screw it all up again anyway, so why even bother. I was certain that, although this program had worked wonders for so many of you, the same miracle wasn't possible for me. I felt stuck, having reached a point where I couldn't imagine going back to the life I'd just left and I couldn't imagine a life of sobriety. Neither running from my problems, nor facing them seemed like solutions to me.

By the grace of God, a friend of mine introduced me to his sponsor & suggested I ask to begin working with him also. Saying I'm grateful he accepted me as a sponsee would be quite an understatement, as my sponsor & the power of God working through my sponsor, without a doubt saved my life.

Probably the first & most impactful thing my sponsor did was believe in me when I absolutely didn't believe in myself. He began providing me with hope. He assured me, through recovery, my life would change. He was willing & able to spend a lot of time with me in my early recovery. He picked me up for morning meetings, picked me up for night meetings. We spent a lot of days together working on steps & talking about God & spirituality. We set my seemingly insurmountable pile of problems in front of us & began taking action on what we could, one at a time. Slowly, just as he'd told me, my life began to change. Now, I felt hopeful & excited about my recovery. I was proud of the positive steps I was taking to clean up my mess, grateful I was no longer ignoring it paralyzed with fear & worry. I felt connected spiritually & connected to others, no longer feeling isolated & alone. If this story ended after the first paragraph, I wouldn't be here today. I feel so blessed & so grateful God placed the right sponsor in my life at the right time.

—by Ben W.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YPAA CAMP FIRE MEETINGS

1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH

7:00 - 8:00 PM

BLACK BEAR CIRCLE, STONE STATE PARK
(HWY 12 ENTRANCE)

ANNUAL AA LABOR DAY PICNIC

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

MORE DETAILS TO COME SOON AT

WWW.AASIOUXCITY.ORG/LOCALEVENTS

SERENITY OPEN GOLF EVENT

INCLUDING LUNCH AND AA MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

TWIN CREEKS GOLF COURSE, PENDER, NE

WWW.AASIOUXCITY.ORG/LOCAL_EVENTS

DISTRICT 1 MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH | 6:30 PM

CLUB 215, 2432 JAY AVE, SIOUX CITY

ALL ARE WELCOME, COME CHECK IT OUT!

AA 8TH TRADITION EDITORIAL

by Bill W. for the Grapevine Magazine, July 1948, vol. 5 no. 2

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for."

Throughout the world A.A.s are "12th stepping" with thousands of new prospects a month. Between one and two thousand of these stick on our first presentation; past experience shows that most of the remainder will come back to us later on. Almost entirely unorganized, and completely non-professional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that's all.



Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalize straight "12th Step" work have always failed quickly. Today, no A.A. will tolerate the idea of paid "A.A. Therapists" or Tradition 8 // Twelve and Twelve Notes "organizers". Nor does any A.A. like to be told just how he must handle that new prospect of his. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own life lines. To a man, we are sure of that.

But what about those who serve us full time in other capacities--are cooks, caretakers and paid Intergroup secretaries "A.A. professionals"? Because our thinking about these people is still unclear, we often feel and act as though they were such. The impression of professionalism subtly attaches to them, so we frequently hear they are "making money out of A.A.", or that they are "professionalizing" A.A. Seemingly, if they do take our A.A. dollars they don't quite belong with us A.A.s anymore. We sometimes go further; we underpay them on the theory they ought to be glad to "cook" for A.A. cheap.

Now isn't this carrying our fears of professionalism rather far? If these fears ever got too strong, none but a saint or an incompetent could work for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our supply of saints being quite small, we would certainly wind up with less competent workers than we need. We are beginning to see that our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. Primarily these folks are not doing 12th Step work. They are just making more and better 12th Step work possible. Secretaries at their desks are valuable points of contact, information and public relations. That is what they are paid for, and nothing else. They help carry the good news of A.A. to the outside world and bring our prospects face to face with us. That's not "A.A. therapy"; it's just a lot of very necessary but often thankless work.

So, where needed, let's revise our attitude toward those who labor at our special services. Let us treat them as A.A. associates, and not as hired help; let's recompense them fairly and, above all, let's absolve them from the label of professionalism. Let us also distinguish clearly between "organizing the A.A. movement" and setting up, in a reasonably business-like manner, its few essential services of contact and propagation. Once we do that, all will be well. The million or so brother alcoholics who are still sick will then continue to get the break we 60,000 A.A.s have already had.

Let's give our "service desks" the hand they so well deserve.
Bill W.

District 1, Area 24 Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Jesse V.

DISTRICT ONE MEETING AREA 24 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS July 11, 2023

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by DCM Erin Z followed by the Serenity prayer. Those presents were Levi H, Tim L, Rick W, Jesse V, Mark P, Janelle B, Russ K, Mick M, Sandra M, Marjorie J, Jerry K, Jane S, Stephanie T, Veronica K & Josh M (16 Present)

OFFICERS REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT: Jesse read the minutes from the May meeting a motion to accept the minutes was made by Tim L and Jerry K seconded the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT: Year to date we have a beginning cash balance of \$5983.50 there was \$1058.84 in expenditures and \$1352.00 in income leaving us with an ending cash balance of \$6276.66 there is \$3000 in prudent reserve so total cash available is \$9276.66. Josh M motion to except the treasurer's report and Mark P seconded the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Russ stopped by the Central Office to see where the archives are kept, Bryon will be helping organize and clean the filing cabinet. An ideal was brought up to load the event flyers on a flash drive to help archive what we are doing currently.

PI/CPC: Collette M and Janelle B are setting up meetings with the professional community to get the word out about AA.

CORRECTIONS: getting more men for the men meetings women's schedule is set up

TREATMENT: Everything is going very well!

INTERGROUP: Intergroup is Thursday 07-20-23 Ragbrai Meeting is all set, there is a host group for the next unity Dinner, there were 14 group that donate this month and many family and friend donated in memory of Jerry M

LITERATURE: Molly not in attendance

GRAPEVINE: Set up Table at the unity dinner

NEWSLETTER: Anther amazing newsletter for July which is available on the Central Office website also looking for writers District Voices would like feedback or suggestions on what people would like to see in the newsletter

Old Business

Looking at the Shrine Temple Tuesday July 12th at 5pm to see if the venue would be accommodating the 2024 Spring Conf.

New Business

Labor Day Picnic will be at Stone State Park

Announcements

- July 15th Unity Dinner Hosted by Sunrise Attitude Adjustment Group 5:00pm Morningside Lutheran Church
- July 22nd Ragbrai A.A. Meeting and Ice Cream Social 5:30pm to 8pm Hawkeye Club
- July 25th Back to Basics starts again 6:30 pm Club 215
- 46th Annual Cornhusker Roundup August 10,11,12 & 13 Liberty Frist Credit Union Arena 7300 Q st Omaha NE
- Serenity Open Golf Event September 10th 9:30am Twin Creeks Golf Course 912 Nebraska HWY 9 Pender, NE
- Area 24 Fall Conference in Dubuque IA October 13th-15th 2023
- Link on the central office website to sign up to go Scholarships available please come to district for more information.
- Iowa Women's Luncheon October 22, 2023, 11:30am Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale 8600 NorthPark Drive

Tim L motioned to close the meeting Jerry K seconded the motion passed the meeting Closed at 7:30 pm with the Lord's prayer.

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JOIN US AT OUR NEXT DISTRICT MEETING! TUES. SEPT 12TH, 6:30PM, CLUB 215 JAY AVE.