



# The Voice Within

DISTRICT 12 NHAA NEWS



## **WHAT MESSAGE ARE WE CARRYING? WHAT MESSAGE ARE WE PROVIDING TO THOSE WE SPONSOR? DO WE UTILIZE AA TRADITIONS FOR OUR SOURCE?**

Are we carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous? Or have we tailored the message to what we feel is the proper message? Are we “re-writing” the message? Are we re-writing AA’s Twelve Traditions? Is AA’s message garbled by our own well – intentioned rationalizations?

## **WHO ARE WE? WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?**

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their **common** problem and help others to recover from **alcoholism**. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

## **FOR WHAT OBJECTIVE?**

AA’s Twelve Steps... can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole. ...the alcoholic, whose hope is the growth and maintenance of a spiritual experience...having had a spiritual awakening....(12 & 12 pg 15, bb pgs 60, 66)

## **HOW DOES ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SURVIVE?**

AA’s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which AA maintains its **UNITY**... We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone. (BB 177) AA’s Twelve Traditions, specifically Traditions One, Three and Five, seek to preserve AA for alcoholics in the future and seek to be *inclusive, not exclusive*. Their purpose is to keep people here, to keep AA together.

## **WHY CAN’T WE BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE?**

Others have tried and failed. Many organizations have diluted their primary purpose in an effort to be “all” things to all people, and as a result, have weakened and died. There are an **estimated 200 twelve step organizations** modeled after AA’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, **each with their own Requirement for Membership and their corresponding Primary Purpose**. Why? Because it works! And, just as importantly, it **CONTINUES** to work!

*“Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody”. Bill W.*

## Unity

Thesaurus; *Agreement; harmony; accord; unison; concord; unanimity.*

**W**hen I am fully tuned in at an AA meeting the faces of each participant tell a story. ***What is the common thread?*** Why are we all together in that place at that moment? Women, Men, Young, Old, Black, White, Brown, well dressed or in tattered clothes, Irish, French, etc etc. What unifies us?

***My conviction is that we are all united in an effort to overcome the ravages of alcoholism.*** When members speak I am listening for their message. How do I stay away from that first drink? Tell me how you live a sober life. Give me directions to follow in recovery. I need your experience, strength and hope. I do not want to go back to living a drunken life - dead from the neck up.

So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. ~Bahá'u'lláh

***Where we all have been is important. What is critical to survival today is where we are now.*** “Every day I start off on my knees asking my higher power for help to stay away from that first drink”. Hmmm... “I have a Sponsor whom I call before I pick up a drink” Hmmm... “I am active in my home group and participate in my recovery”. Hmmm... “My telephone number is” “give me a call.” Hmmm... “Do you have a Big Book?”

***Common message, repeated often, about a common foe.*** Repetition strengthens and confirms. Successes based on unity of purpose because our fellowship remains interconnected by the horror of active alcoholism overcome through the practice of 12 Steps. The miracle of sober living attained via drunks sharing this message with drunks.

***No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.*** ~John Donne

Humans joined in *being* instead of lost souls just wanting more. Men and women empowered by being powerless. Hands extended and then joined

together in prayer. We unite and feel the clout of positive purpose. We are so blessed.

***Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.*** ~Henry Ford

***We are also united in our failures.*** This rapacious creditor is a harsh teacher and we must always have our hands ready to pull each other back from the abyss. As alcoholics we are all eligible. Through God's grace we know the strength of our foe and must be prepared to pass on what has worked and also what has not worked.

Men, like nails, lose their usefulness when they lose direction and begin to bend. ~Walter Savage Landor

***I owe this wonderful life to a fellowship built on unity.*** These lyrics from “The Brotherhood of Man” (written by [Tony Hiller](#) and Peter Simons) seem to sum up my beliefs in the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous;

*Now, you may join the Elks, my friend,  
And I may join the Shriners;  
And other men may carry cards  
As members of the Diners.*

*Still others wear a golden key  
Or small Greek letter pin;  
But I have learned there's one great club  
That all of us are in.*

*There is a Brotherhood of Man,  
A Benevolent Brotherhood of Man,  
A noble tie that binds  
All human hearts and minds  
Into one Brotherhood of Man.*

*Your lifelong membership is free.  
Keep agivin' each brother all you can.  
Oh aren't you proud to be  
In that fraternity,  
The great big Brotherhood of Man?*

Thank You God.  
Alk

### **LOCATION CHANGE**

The North End Group (SD)  
will be moving to  
**Helping Hands Center**  
**(former Eagles Hall)**  
140 Central St. (on corner of Pine),  
Manchester - beginning Sunday  
October 4, 2009.  
10:00 – 11:30

### **NEW GROUP:**

**Crosswalk Noontime**  
**Group (CD)**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**12:00 – 1:00 PM**  
**New Beginnings –**  
**Assemblies of God**  
**130 Conant St. (Rear**  
**Entrance) Manchester.**

### **MEETING TIME** **CHANGE**

**Massabesic Lake Group**  
**WAS: Wednesday 7:30 - 8:30**  
**New Meeting Time Effective**  
**November 1, 2009**  
**7:15 – 8:30 PM**

### **NEEDS SUPPORT**

**Living Sober Group (D)**  
**Friday 8:30 – 10:30 AM**  
**First United Methodist**  
**Church**  
**961 Valley St. Manchester.**  
**New Members Welcome!**

## **Visit The District 12** **Website!**

**[www.aadistrict12.org](http://www.aadistrict12.org)**

**Quick Reference For**  
**Updated:**

- **District A. A.**  
**Meeting List**
- **The Voice Within**  
**(Newsletter)**
- **“BOX 3814” Group**  
**and Events**
- **Announcement Bulletin**
- **Complete Service**  
**Information**
- **Links to Area &**  
**World Service**  
**Websites**

### **DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

**ALL DISTRICT 12**  
**SERVICE POSITIONS**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 18,**  
**2009**

**At the District Assembly**  
**Meeting**  
**St. Raphaels' Church**  
**Third and Ferry Sts.**  
**Manchester. 6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**(Contact: Your GSR – Refer**  
**to “BOX 3814”**  
**on the District Website – or**  
**call the Alternate**  
**DCM @ (603) 801-7316 for**  
**further details).**

## **District 12 Halloween** **Costume Bash**

**October 31, 2009: 7pm – 11pm**  
**Helping Hands Center (former Eagles**  
**Hall)**  
**140 Central St. (on corner of Pine),**  
**Manchester, NH**

### **Friends & Family of AA** **Welcome!**

- Potluck contributions encouraged & gratefully accepted (limited snacks & drinks provided)
- Dancing & Karaoke with “The Karaoke Kid”
- Prizes for the best 3 costumes
- Four raffles

**Tickets Avail. @ the Door: \$10 w/**  
**costume; \$12 w/out**

#### **For more info, contact:**

**Scott T: 261-0987 • Terry F: 828-7932**  
**Chris P: 913-5039 •**  
**[district12functions@gmail.com](mailto:district12functions@gmail.com)**

## **District 12 “Old Timers”** **Fall Dinner Dance**

**October 3, 2009: 6pm – 11:30pm**  
**Greek Assumption Orthodox**  
**Church**  
**111 Island Pond Road,**  
**Manchester, NH 03109**

### **Friends & Family of AA** **Welcome!**

- 6-8pm – Fellowship, Refreshments & Dinner
- 8-9pm – Speakers
- 9:00-9:15pm – Countdown
- 9:15-11:30pm - Dancing

**\$25 per person (full evening)**  
**\$10 per person (after 8pm for desert &**  
**dancing)**

#### **For tickets & more info, contact:**

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## **What is AA?**

**AA is a spirit. It cannot be touched, nor can it be completely understood. It is as wide as the world, yet small enough to fit snugly into the hearts of women and men. It has brought light where only darkness dwelt. It has given hope to those who yearned in despair. It has nourished forgiveness in those that knew no pity. It has given strength to the weak and humility to the strong. It has spurred to higher goals those that strove for nothing. It has taught patience to the hurried and action to the lazy. To youth it has given**

vision and to the aged promise. To the lonely, companions, and to the restless, rest. To the sick it has been a doctor, and to the dying it has revived the desire to live. It has no judgment against the unteachables, nor has it praise for those who learn. To the outcast it has been a family, and to the childless it has given children. To the ignorant, wisdom, and to the wise, tolerance. It has given to all men and women that which is most precious. It has given a love for truth with enough left over to share.

*Anonymous*

### *THANKSGIVING DAY TRADITION – GRATITUDE MEETING*

**On Thanksgiving** morning 2009 the First Light of Day Group dispenses with its regular format of a Big Book meeting. In its place is a Tradition/Gratitude meeting with an extended time span of 1 ½ hours. (6:30-8:00 am)

**Born** of an idea reprinted from the November 1949 *Grapevine* article *A Suggestion for Thanksgiving* by Bill W., the format consists of an opening prayer, the reading of Tradition One, the reading of *How it Works*, the reading of the "Promises", the readings from *As Bill Sees It* from pages 29 and 37 concerning gratitude, and then followed by a sharing of those present of their own personal feelings of gratitude.

**Attendance** at this particular meeting has grown to the point where the hall is filled to near capacity. (2008 saw over 150 alcoholics present) Many of those who attend this special meeting are at a 6:30 am meeting for the first time but the "spirit" is such that they "often return to us convinced". The heartfelt tributes to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the outpouring of the unconditional love that exists amongst us, and the "genuine gratitude for blessings received" serve as the basis for "living this day successfully".

**Please join us** Thanksgiving morning November 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews Church adjacent to West High School in this celebration of the heartfelt GRATITUDE of the way of life that has been afforded to us through the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and the program of recovery as outlined in our twelve steps.

*FIRST LIGHT OF DAY GROUP*

### **This issue of The Voice Within was sponsored through the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

**Length and format:** The newsletter may publish work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to full-page articles (word count 400-800max) **Text** sent by e-mail should be submitted in the body of the message or as attached files, saved in "Word," "Simple text," or "Rich text." **Handwritten text** should be written clearly on one side of the paper. Include your phone number please.

**Articles are reviewed and selected by the editorial team. Dark Pen Line drawings, cartoons, crossword puzzles, etc., are also welcome Please scan and email these items**

**Newsletter Chair Lance C.**

**The Voice Within News**

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