



The Voice Within

AA SERVICE – *LEGACY OF ACTION*

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.

DISTRICT 12 CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

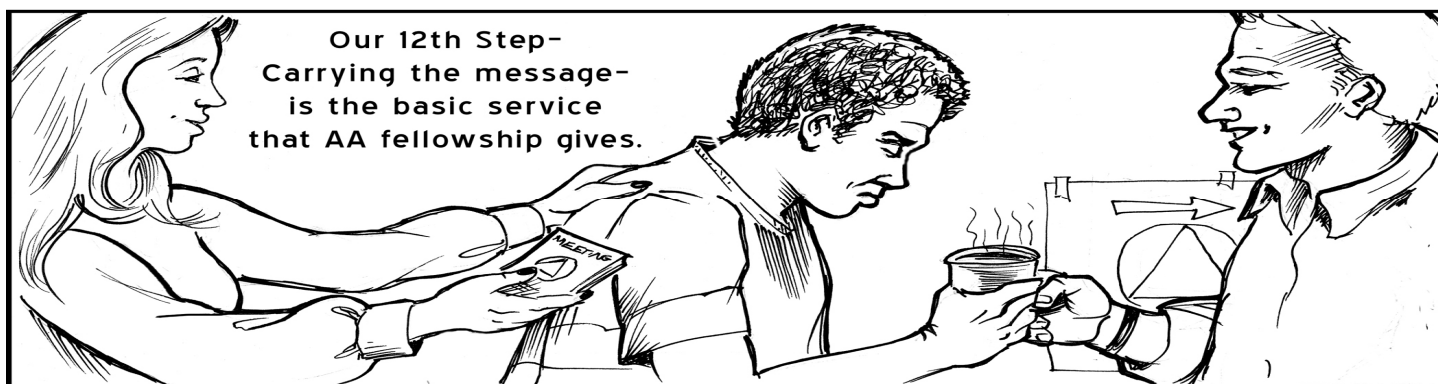
TWENTY FOURS HOURS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS, PLUS FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN! 6 PM CHRISTMAS EVE. TO 6 PM CHRISTMAS DAY.

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE. 500 COMMERCIAL ST., MANCHESTER.

HOST GROUP	START TIME	END TIME	AA GROUP
FIRST LIGHT OF DAY	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	FIRST LIGHT OF DAY
	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	HAPPY HOUR EAST
	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	SUNDAY ROUND ROBIN
	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	STEPPIN BACK TO BASICS
LIVING, LOVING, SHARING	10:00 PM	11:00 PM	LIVING, LOVING, SHARING
	11:00 PM	12:00 AM	QUEEN CITY GROUP
	12:00 AM	1:00 AM	RAINBOW BIG BOOK
	1:00 AM	2:00 AM	HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE
MANCHESTER ORIGINAL	2:00 AM	3:00 AM	MANCHESTER ORIGINAL
	3:00 AM	4:00 AM	FREE AT LAST
	4:00 AM	5:00 AM	CLEAN AND SERENE BB
	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	SUNDAY SERENITY
HAPPY HOUR WEST	6:00 AM	7:00 AM	HAPPY HOUR WEST
	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	KEEP IT SIMPLE
	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	LAKE MASSABESIC
	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	HARD HAT
NORTH END GROUP	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NORTH END GROUP
	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	LIVING SOBER
	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	AMOSKEAG FALLS BB
	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	JOY OF LIVING
ONE, TWO, FREE GROUP	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	ONE, TWO, FREE GROUP
	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	MEN'S 12 & 12 GROUP
	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	COURAGE TO CHANGE
	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	WOMEN'S BACK TO BASICS

December 2009

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



I met a gentleman at my and got his name. I but he had the look of came in. Anxious, nervous, words that come to mind. he told me he was from appropriate it was that he from another *state*. *I'm newcomer I felt as if I world*.

I noticed he to thinking about that legal implications of him carrying early on wanting the

offered, and I wanted it quickly. I wanted it quickly mostly because I wanted to live, and was afraid if I didn't get it quickly I may change my mind about the *wanting* to live part. That legal pad represented more too. I thought about how he had probably dug it out of some obscure drawer somewhere when he was at the peak of his surrender, the bottom of his bottom, when the determination and motivation to change his life were the strongest. **So the pad symbolized his determination.** I also started thinking about how the pad represented his continuing desire to go it alone, to figure out on his own, the *how* and *why* of this thing. I remembered how alone I felt when I came in, how lonely it was, not just the drinking part, but the thinking part; the feeling that I could never be a part of the rest of the world, never adjust myself mentally or spiritually enough to feel like a human being, unless I got the secret you had. And I was right; I never could have adjusted myself with myself. I couldn't do it alone. But it looked like he was going to write it down, scribble out some fancy equations of knowledge on this pad of his, and with a few deft maneuverings of his pen, have this thing all figured out. **So the pad also symbolized his loneliness.** I had noticed, too, that he drove an expensive automobile, and so more than likely he was in a position of power out there in the world, a position at least, of good compensation for the job he did. I imagined he was probably the head of a company, or in the upper management somewhere. **So the pad also symbolized his intellect.** I thought how he probably was very smart, and in his field, had utilized that high intelligence to get ahead, to move up that corporate ladder. And I remembered how my disease wants *me* to be impressed with my intellect, and that my disease is *not* impressed by my intellect. In other words, brains have nothing to do with this thing, and the words "*I know*" are dangerous. If I have to tell someone "*I know*" it must be because they're trying to remind me of something I should be doing, and I'm not doing it. So, if he writes these things down on this pad of his, does he *know*? No, he doesn't, because ***we know by doing, we don't do by knowing.*** So, anyway, the meeting began, and the meeting ended. He sat there the whole time, sipping his coffee, the pad sitting next to him on an empty chair. (*cont p. 3*)

AA IS MORE THAN A SET OF
PRINCIPLES; IT IS A
SOCIETY OF ALCOHOLICS IN
ACTION. WE MUST CARRY
THE MESSAGE, ELSE WE
OURSELVES CAN WITHER
AND THOSE WHO HAVEN'T
BEEN GIVEN THE TRUTH
MAY DIE.

BILL W.

home group. I introduced myself wasn't sure he was a newcomer, one, the look that I had when I and desperate are a few of the He was an older gentleman, and another state. I kept thinking how had described himself as being

*pretty sure as a
were from a different*

carried a legal pad with him. I got pad, and what the possible it around were. I pictured myself knowledge, the secret of what AA

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DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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You know – he never did write anything down on that pad of his, and I imagined it was because he realized there was so much to write that he couldn't write it all, and so, just like I would've, he gave up due to the immensity of it all. Or it could've been that he realized there was something here that no ordinary, worldly, logical note-taking was going to help him fathom. I think that's true; I know I only began to open my eyes when I was helped step by step by another alcoholic. I didn't talk to him again. As far as I know, no one else really did either. Not that it was "someone else's" job; like it says – "*for that I am responsible*". **All of these jobs – opportunities – in AA are not "someone else's job". They're ours.** We said the Lord's Prayer and cleaned up the hall, and I forgot, or maybe I didn't forget, I just didn't talk to him again. I regret not taking more time with that newcomer, and I remember him every time I run into another newcomer. Did he stay sober? I don't know. I hoped later that he wound up at another group where someone took more time. Or, it could've been that he went home and put that legal pad back in that drawer, where it would occasionally remind him of his brief trial at sobriety, and how AA "didn't work". It's possible I didn't talk to him again because somewhere in the back of my mind there echoed a feeling about what the *immensity* of working with a newcomer could mean to me, could mean to my time. I realized later that **my way of thinking was as non-reliant on a higher power as his** in this regard. He, with his legal pad of self reliance, his lack of a faith in a power greater than himself to show him the way down this path of recovery, and me, forgetting that of *myself I am nothing*, that in working with other alcoholics I am merely a channel, I am not relying on my own power, my own intellect, my own determination, that *the power behind me is far greater than the task before me*. I hope I will always remember him, and that the next time I catch myself thinking "**I know**", it's **because I'm actually doing it.**

Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 77

There is action and more action. "Faith without works is dead"...to be helpful is our only aim.

Alcoholics Anonymous pp. 88-89

NORTH END GROUP

IN A NEW LOCATION:

MEETS SUNDAY 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (HSD)

Helping Hands Center

140 Central St. Manchester

Lake Massabesic Group

Congregational Church

321 S Main St. (corner of Milford)

New meeting time

7:15 – 8:30 pm (HS)

December 2009

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Get involved in your recovery! Give back what was freely given!

There are a number of different committees that provide services to District 12; everything from working to put on functions to bringing commitments into jails and institutions to working with the Professional Community. If there are no committee chair or officer positions open, and you would like to be more involved in service work in the district, we suggest that you contact the chair of a committee that you might be interested in working on.

ATTEND A DISTRICT 12 MONTHLY MEETING

3rd Sunday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

St. Raphael's Church Hall
Ferry St Manchester NH

If you have made a commitment to staying sober, taking on a district service position as well as being involved in your home group is a great way to help you maintain your sobriety and help other alcoholics!

AA is a fellowship! Contribute personally to this wonderful fellowship of men and women.

AA exists only through the help of volunteers.
Help to ensure AA is here for today's alcoholic as well as future alcoholics!

For that WE are responsible
For further info speak with your home group's GSR, Alt. GSR, or contact the Voice Within.

District 12 New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

Thursday Dec. 31, 2009

6:00 PM to Midnight

**Helping Hands Building – 140 Central St.
Manchester**

**6:00 – Fellowship Hour/ 7:00 – Dinner/ 8:00-
Speakers/ 9:00 -Raffles / 9:30 – Midnight,
Dancing.**

**Pork Loin Dinner with salad, sides, and dessert
Tickets in advance and at the door \$20.00**

AN ALCOHOLIC'S DREAM

I dreamt I died the other night, and left this world
behind.

Had started down a lonely trail, some of my friends to
find.

I came to a signboard on the trail, the directions it did
tell;

Turn right to go to heaven, turn left to go to hell.

Now, I hadn't been too good on earth, just a hopeless
boozing rake.

And I knew there at the crossroads, the path I'd have to
take.

Old Satan met me at the gate, "What is your name my
friend?"

I said, "I'm just old sober Johnny, who's finally come to
his end."

He quickly glanced thru some yellow pages, "There's
been a mistake, I fear.

You're listed as an alcoholic; we do not want you here!"

I said, "I'm looking for my friends", and a smile came
over his face.

"If they are alcoholics too, they are in the other place."

So, I went back down the path I came, till the signboard
I did see.

Then turned right to go to heaven, just as happy as could
be.

St. Peter smiled and said, "Come in. For you we have a
berth.

For you're an alcoholic. You've been thru hell on earth."

Then, I saw Old Bob & Old Clyde too, and a grand old
friend named Belle.

And I was tickled pink because, I'd thought they'd gone
to hell.

Now, brothers and sisters, all take warning,
Learn something from my trip.

There's a place for you in heaven,

If you try hard not to slip!!

So, when someone tempts you with a drink,
And you know you're not feeling well.

Tell them you're going to heaven,
And they can "Go To Hell."

THE VOICE WITHIN NEEDS YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Stories of experience, strength and hope, anecdotes, articles on AA in general, group announcements, etc.

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