



The Voice Within

Recovery



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More than most people, I think, alcoholics want to know who they are, what this life is all about, whether they have a divine origin and an appointed destiny, and whether there is a system of cosmic justice and love. Bill W.

I asked myself why I considered so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in AA. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few. The AA people are what they are, and they are what they were, because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor, an awareness of the universal truth. They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But when they found their restoration they are as sensitive as ever; responsive to the beauty and the truth and eager about the intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions.

They are possessed of a sense of universal truth that is often new in their heart. This fact that this at-one moment with God's universe had never been awakened within them is the reason they drank. They have found a power greater than themselves, which they diligently serve. And that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on the land and sea; it makes you know that God is charming, because the AA people reflect His mercy and forgiveness.

They are imaginative, and that helped make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their imaginations onto greater efforts. Others guzzled only to block out unendurable visions that arose in their imaginations. But when they found their restorations, their imagination is responsive to new incantations and their talk abounds with color and might, and that makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed of a sense of humor. Even in their cups they are known to be damnably funny. Often it was being forced to take seriously the little and mean things of life that made them seek their escape in the bottle. But when they found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom and they are able to laugh at themselves, the very height of self-conquest. Go to their meetings and listen to their laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candlelight.

Fulton Oursler was a friend of Bill W's and served as a Trustee and member of the Grapevine editorial board.

**Beech Street Big Book Step
Study**

**6th Anniversary Celebration
Family and friends welcome!**

St. Augustine Church
382 Beech Street
Manchester, NH

At the corner of Beech and Spruce
Streets.

Thursday, February 25, 2010
5:30 — Setup

6:00 — Pot Luck Dinner

7:00 — Speakers: A.A. and Al-Anon
Raffles!

”Open Speaker Meeting”

For more info, contact: Kevin S. (603)
785-7165

Happy Hour West

celebrating its 25th Anniversary
Thursday, March 25th. at St. Andrews
Church on Main St.

The meeting is 5:30 to 6:30 with special
guest speakers. There will be a buffet
following the meeting.

NEW MEETING!

We Stopped in Time-Young People's
Sundays 8:00PM-9:30PM

1850 Elm Street, Manchester

Between North and Webster Sts.

(Park in Back)

Speaker-Discussion

Forty-Fourth Annual Area 43 New

Hampshire AA Convention

Courtyard by Marriot * 2200 Southwood Dr.

Nashua NH 03063 / Tel (603) 880-9100

Friday through Sunday

April 16 – 18, 2010

Speaker Talks * Discussion Sessions * Workshops

Friday Night Ice Cream Social * Saturday Night

Dance with Band.

For More Information and Registration:

NHAA.net

Registration is \$22.00 in advance

OR \$25.00 walk-in.

Going it Alone

I'm going on six years of continuous sobriety after finding the doors of AA in 1992. Here's my story and I'm not proud of it (From As Bill Sees It). For some reason or other, the Higher Power has laid out tougher paths for some of us. I guess you are treading one of them. Our HP is not asking us to be successful; he is only asking us to try to be.

I'll take you back to a year and a half ago. Same old story, I took back control of my life, stopped going to meetings and ended up isolated. I went to work and then home. Hopelessness was an everyday feeling. To make a long story short, I wound up alone; Just me and my deaf cat, Riley. One day about three months ago, I opened the door to my apartment (I was soon to be kicked out of), my cat took one look at me and scattered under the couch. I got on my hands and knees to get him. At that moment, the Grace of God entered my life and I started to cry. Since I was already on my knees I asked God to help me, for I was at the jumping off point. To this day and every day, I thank Him. I am an alcoholic. That's that.

By the way, my cat loves me today. The miracles keep coming. Four years of not having my children in my life, they are now back. Just some of the miracles of recovery. The moral of the story is keep coming and it will always get better. Love, Tom B.

February 2010

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE.

I have been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in good standing - I mean sober for over 27 years coming up on 28 years this February.

And I've been noticing some of our newer members going **off of our PRIMARY PURPOSE**; some seem to be raising their hands and talking more about their drug issues than their alcohol problems. I was at one meeting recently where the chairperson spoke for about one half of the meeting about his drugalog and only said about one line of his drunkalog. When I first came to AA back in 1982 the older members would not let this happen. I had mentioned this to a woman next to me and mentioned NA to her and did I get an ear full of it from her. One of the other ways another person is going off of our PRIMARY PURPOSE is this guy is stuffing his GOD down my throat for a good length of the time he spoke - also not mentioning alcohol much of his time speaking.

Just to let all of you newer people coming to AA know, 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. (Not Drug Addiction and not your Religion) **The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.** So again our PRIMARY PURPOSE is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to recover from ALCOHOLISM - NOT DRUGS and NOT TO PREACH ABOUT GOD. Oh and incidentally I do believe that this AA Fellowship is based on our Higher Power (for me that is the GOD of my understanding not what you think I should think).

Furthermore If I am having any issues with my drug addiction or any other addiction I may have I'll bring it to the correct fellowship. If I need to go to Church I'll do so (I don't want to be preached to by anyone from the meetings I go to). Thank you. Dave M.

Perhaps we carry the principle of tolerance too far, and if we find that to be true, I am sure we shall be willing to adjust our viewpoints. Bill W.

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.

Children of Chaos

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individuals. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

**Thought to Ponder: The Twelve Steps tell us how it works;
the Twelve Traditions tell us why it works.**

W I S D O M = When Into Self, Discover Our Motives.

Responsibility

As a recovering alcoholic I need only have two concerns.

**The first is to maintain my sobriety on a daily basis
and to practice the program of AA one day at a time.**

**The second is to ensure that what was here yesterday will be here tomorrow
for the next alcoholic who walks through the doors of the Fellowship.**

And for that I am responsible.

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DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This issue of The Voice Within was sponsored through the 7th Tradition

Submitting Articles

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," Handwritten text should be written clearly on one side of the paper. Include your phone number please. **Comments? Email us your comments on any articles, topics, etc.** Articles are reviewed, selected, and edited by the editorial team. The contents appropriateness is at the sole discretion of the Newsletter Committee.

Absolute Deadline to be considered for April 2010 issue is April 1, 2010

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Get involved in AA's legacy of Service. Give back what was freely given!
District 12 Website: www.aadistrict12.org

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

Help to ensure AA is here for today's alcoholic as well as future alcoholics!
For that WE are responsible

My Group the Clique

This issue of the *Voice Within* - having the theme of "Recovery" - got me thinking about my Home Group

and its importance in my recovery. I recently overheard someone describing my group as a "clique", and I thought about how earlier in recovery I had belonged to a different home group. This group had a core group of the same people that were the most active – going on commitments, staying for the business meetings, even going out together for non-AA functions. I became disillusioned with this group, thinking they were being exclusive.

But I completely overlooked the fact that I had passed up many opportunities to become more central in that group, to attend those commitments, stay for those business meetings, go out to eat with them, in other words, to become a part of. There was never any great conspiracy to keep me out after all! (Unless you count my disease that **always** conspires to keep me separate from other alcoholics) I became aware that it is actually more **my** responsibility to get in the middle of my group than it was for "them" to **get me** involved. Maybe it was simply that like Groucho Marx "I didn't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members." In the dictionary the definition of "clique" is: **A group of persons held together by common interests, views, or purposes.** Well, well. Sounds like a solid group of Alcoholics Anonymous working together in Unity, Service and Recovery, working together to stay sober and to carry the message to other alcoholics! Today I'm in the middle of my group.

I hope you're as lucky with your home group as I am with mine. **Thank God for the Clique of AA. Thank God for the Home Group.** Lance

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