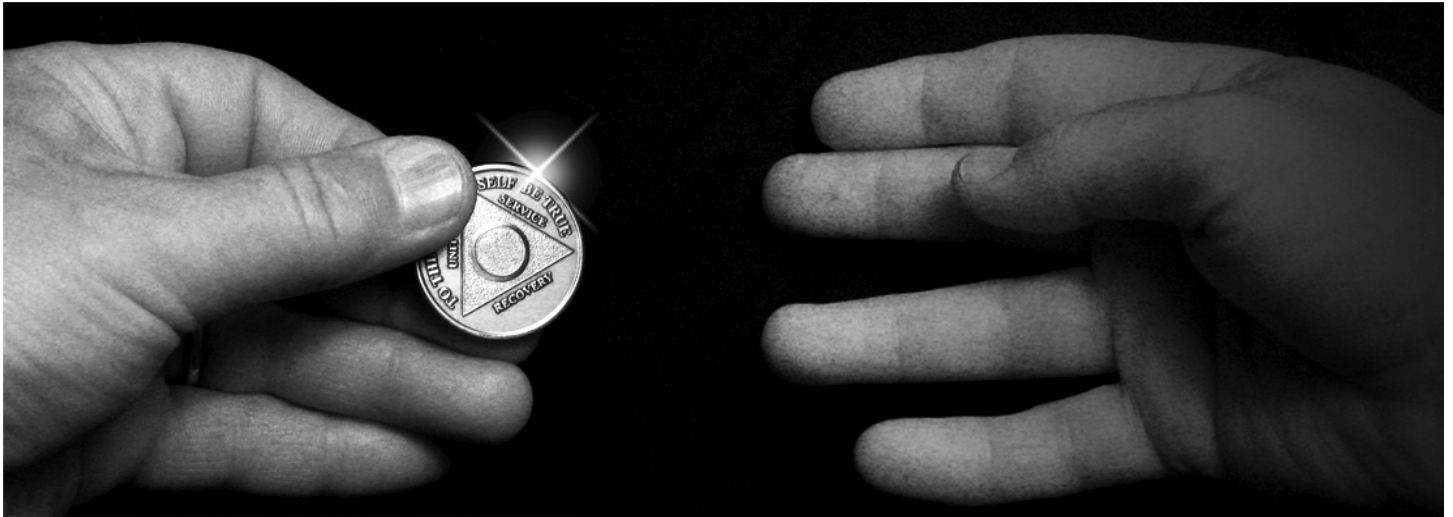




The Voice Within



PASS IT ON

You see, our talk was a completely mutual thing. I had quit preaching. I knew that I needed the alcoholic as much as he needed me. This was it. And this mutual give and take is at the very heart of all of AA's Twelfth Step work today. This was how to carry the message. The final missing link was located right there in my first talk with Dr. Bob. Bill W. in AA Comes of Age

'Pass It On' was the topic for discussion at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that I was reluctantly attending in the early days of sobriety. A few personal experiences that follow are the results of attending that meeting and subsequent AA meetings.

As a newcomer or one who has difficulty in speaking, you might ask who the meeting secretary is and that you need to speak with a group member. While attending a discussion meeting you might raise your hand, identify yourself, and state your question or concern. Arrive early and stay a little after the AA meeting, Let folks know who you are. If you feel a specific group supports your needs for sobriety, consider joining that group as a member. Ask if you can be of service. Travel with your group on commitments. (contd)

August 2010

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

(continued)

Introduce yourself to newcomers; remember there was someone there for you when you started this journey. Reflect for a moment what happens after a question is asked at an AA meeting. There is a good chance that a response might sound something like this, "When I asked that same question, this is what was suggested". or "I had the same concern and tried this, etc..."

There are many suggestions that have been shared, tried, tested and proven over the past seventy five years of AA. It is my humble opinion that "Passing It On" is not much more than a twelve letter word beginning with the letter 'C' and ending with the letter 'N'. Many of us, for a number of years, have tried this suggested approach; we watch in awe as the miracles continue to take form... Dave D

District 12 "Service Forum"

Saturday September 11, 2010

Grace Episcopal Church - 106 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH. *"In the Great Hall"*
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. Registration / Continental
Breakfast
& Fellowship

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Workshops: On Sponsorship

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. Luncheon

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Workshops: Intro to the 12
Concepts

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Open Mic: Questions &
Discussion

Contribution for Luncheon (\$10.00) Gratefully
Appreciated

Statewide Attendance - All Are Welcome to Attend

GET INVOLVED

IN AA'S LEGACY OF SERVICE

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. Contact the
chair of one of the committees that you
are interested in.

**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

Without "Passing it on" there is no Alcoholics Anonymous. If our founders kept their experience, strength and hope to themselves no fellowship would have grown, no literature would have been produced and no program of recovery developed.

Without a compassionate person extending his hand for me to grasp and hold onto while he guided me through the pratfalls of early sobriety, I would have fallen. Not only would I have failed but any good that came as a result of my sober living would have been lost.

If today I rest on my laurels and fail to work on sharing these lessons with others, than I have selfishly betrayed the trust bestowed upon me by those who gave to me of themselves. The only price I have ever been asked to pay for a day of freedom from alcoholism was a request that I "Pass it on" to other seekers of sobriety. (contd)

August 2010

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

(continued)

Our Big Book (pg 89 paragraph 1) states a simple fact that amplifies the personal need to "Pass it On":

"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can."

Someone is waiting to hear the message that only you can provide and your voice may be the only one that will pierce the fog. Don't let them down. "Pass it on". ALK

The theme of the October 2010 issue of the *Voice Within* will be:

'The Solution'.

Send us your thoughts, your article, or your input! Deadline is Sept. 30, 2010.

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE GROUP

Annual Tribute To Billy L.

Tuesday August 31st

St. Andrew's Episcopal

102 N Main St.

Manchester, NH 03102

"Boston Billy, the quiet power of love"

the article from the October 2005 AA Grapevine, is the Heard it Through the Grapevine's theme once again for this annual tribute.

Special Hours:

Dessert 7pm – 7:30 pm

Meeting 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Back to Basics Group

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Tuesdays 7 pm – 8 pm

Cypress Center

401 Cypress St.

Manchester

NHSCYPAA

(NH State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) is having its 6TH Annual Pig Roast at Northstar Campground, 43 Coon Brook Road Newport NH:

There will be a camp out from August 20th to August 22nd and the Pig Roast on Saturday August 21st from 3pm to 9pm The cost is \$10 for the ticket plus an additional \$5 at the gate for park access. For more information call: **Dan L** 603-568-5493.

NHSCYPAA is having its 6th annual Boat Cruise on September 25th 2010 from 5:30pm-10pm at 10 82nd St Newburyport MA. For more information contact **Matt** at 603-706-5377.

District 12 "Fall Dinner Dance"

Celebrating Our Old Timers - Newcomers & Everyone In Between

Saturday October 2, 2010

Parish of the Transfiguration Church Hall

305 Kelley Street – Manchester, NH.

5:30 P.M. – 11:30 P.M.

5:30 PM: Appetizers & Refreshments / Contests / Fellowship Hour

6:30 PM: Beef Tip Dinner with Sides / Salad & Dessert

7:30 PM: Guest Speakers / Old Timer Medallion Presentations

8:45 PM: Countdown / Raffles / Followed by DJ and Dancing

Refreshments & More Desserts Continue Throughout the Evening

Tickets: \$20.00 Per Person / \$10.00 After 7:30 PM

Advance Ticket Purchase Insures A Dinner Plate Reservation

Contact Terry F. @ (603) 828-7932 or Scott T. @ (603) 261-0987

Special Dinner Plate Arrangements Can Be Made

Contact Terry F. @ (603) 828-7932 Well Ahead of Time

August 2010

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

When considering the term "Pass it on", the first response and natural inclination I have is to want to go on about sponsorship and putting my hand out to the newcomer at meetings. While these two aspects of "passing it on" are of the utmost importance to the newcomer and the persons trying to get and stay sober and are absolutely vital to the continuing potency and legacy of Alcoholics Anonymous there is another equally important part of "passing it on" that gets overlooked and far too often left in the halls when the meetings draw to a close.

That part is living the Principals taught by the program of AA in our daily lives. Having entered into a new way of being that is dependent upon Honesty, Compassion and Tolerance to stay sober ourselves, we see that it is also in this way of being that we as members of Alcoholics Anonymous make this great fellowship attractive to those persons in our lives who may one day need the services and way of life that we offer, whether it be to a loved one with intimate knowledge of our past escapades who can draw a definite conclusion as to which way of life is more attractive or a business associate with only vague ties to us who hears whispers that "he/she's in AA" and sees that we lead a useful and happily wholesome way of life. We cannot deny that "Passing it on" goes far beyond our outstretched hands and reaches into the very nucleus of our existence. Having accepted this path as one that undoubtedly works, it is by PRACTICING (meaning only trying to do the best we can) this way of life on a daily basis that we are able to reach the most people. After all, this program isn't about putting on your best mask for a nightly social engagement; it's about staying sober and helping others to do so by having a "necessary and vital psychic change". Which means shedding those masks in and out of meetings, not merely adding another to get along. I am by no means perfect at this (just ask my kids) but I do PRACTICE the principals of AA to the best of my ability on a daily basis. Every day it becomes a little more natural to "pass it on" by example. As my sponsor likes to say "We may be the only copy of a Big Book that someone gets to see." With Love to all, Eric C. "Pass It On"

75 YEARS STRONG

I had the good fortune to attend the AA International Convention in San Antonio for five days in July. This was the first time I've been to one, and though I've heard from others their experience from when they attended previous conventions, I was completely unprepared for the experience. I remember my first meeting in AA, not the details or what was said, but the feelings. That feeling of finally being somewhere I was supposed to be, the feeling that I had stepped out on to the path that began a new life, that these people welcomed me, that we shared a common bond. All of these, and one other overriding feeling that permeated them all: that deep down, inexplicable serenity that comes as a result of a Spiritual Experience. That first meeting was a spiritual experience for me, as the Higher Power that I had no understanding of made His way between and through those alcoholics and me, filling that room with an unseen uplifting Power. I didn't know what it was, but I wanted more. I chased it, at first intellectually, but finally just allowing it to be, and to work, without me examining it. I can no more explain how this thing works today than I could at that first meeting. I know the books, I can explain the books, but I can't explain the transference that happens between alcoholics, except to say that the conduit between them is surely not of human power. I walked into the first Workshop at the Convention, where there were two thousand people, and that feeling came once again, stronger than ever, this time exponentially increased. I attended the Alamodome meetings where upwards of sixty five thousand alcoholics laughed, talked and listened to speakers and watched the world's flags brought out to stage, and that feeling magnified further still. In case you've wondered, AA is alive and well. Thanks to those who came before, thanks to those here today, recovering alcoholics are alive and well. PASS IT ON

Lance C.

August 2010

DISTRICT 12 NH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS