

maybe 30 days sober, and I wanted 30 years of sobriety yesterday. And that stupid Step Three is just *hanging* there, without even being finished.

Well, thankfully, God helped me stick around, and without my even realizing it, over time (which is how the principles of recovery have worked for me), and after reading and studying and discussing these steps again and again, an understanding of Step Three came to me. The following words (remember how I recognize the English language?) fairly jumped out at me:

“It is when we try to make our will conform with God’s that we begin to use it rightly...We had tried to bombard our problems with it [willpower] instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God’s intention for us. To make this increasingly possible is the purpose of A.A.’s Twelve Steps, and Step Three opens the door.”

And there it was, plain as day. I need *all twelve steps* to enable me to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I understand him.

-Lisa K., Manchester



THE GROUP TUNE-UP

Have you ever gone to a meeting in another town and just before the person reading “How It Works” gets to the sentence, ‘The point is..’, some people in the Group shout out, ‘*What’s the Point?!*’ Strange, eh? Of course, they might think that thirty people all saying ‘*We think not*’ near the end of the Promises is also a bit odd. Group traditions grow and change, but AA Groups aren’t made with cookie cutters.

Some groups are adamant about *not* saying “Keep coming!” when doing the chips; other groups may like to close with a specific prayer. The most important thing for a group is to remember the Primary Purpose as stated in our Fifth Tradition: **To carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.**

In order to really tell if the group is living up to its Primary Purpose, the members might take an inventory on a regular basis. We alcoholics don’t always like looking in the mirror, but we have learned that self-examination is the way to recovery. Groups need that self-examination as well. Some might say that Groups that stop carrying the message stop being groups and become meetings. The first Five Traditions are a good starting point and some examples of group inventory questions are found in the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group.”

Take a look; it won’t hurt you, or your group.

Yours in service,
Dan P, DCM District 12

BRING IT ON: The 603 BID COMMITTEE

Throughout the coming months of 2012, you will be hearing about the 603 Bid, or more formally, the NH NECYPAA (New England Conference of Young People in AA) XXIV Bid. We are a group of AA's who are attempting to bring the 24th NECYPAA Conference here to Manchester on the Eve of 2014. To do so, we have to fulfill a list of 13 Requirements, including showing the need for this conference within this Area.

This Conference offers its attendees a weekend full of fellowship at which the newcomer will get to experience fun in sobriety. Among the top concerns of newcomers or younger AA's is that when the drinking stops, so does the fun. A newcomer will see at the NECYPAA conference that there are many peers who are staying sober one day at a time, and are not sullen or glum over the prospect of another sober day.

The heart of a NECYPAA conference is three main meetings- one each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Attendees will usually hear from someone who first became sober at or around their age, who now has many years of experience in AA. This is a great opportunity for newcomers from all over New England to gather for inspiration, support, and fun in recovery; it's also a way for people with longer-term sobriety to have fun and catch some energy!

This is not this group's first attempt to bring the NECYPAA Conference to Manchester. Although we met all the requirements to have this year's NECYPAA Conference, another host site was selected. Although frustrated by this defeat, we still believe in our cause and do not consider last year's work a loss, for we were able to put on two events that helped people stay sober, including a free spaghetti dinner we held last fall in Claremont. And all of the Committee members have stayed sober.

We have held our first event already this year, as you may have heard. It was called *Sober on Ice* and was held at the JFK Arena; we had over 40 attending. This is the type of event we like to have, and we plan on bring more fun into sobriety.

We would like to invite all of you to help us bring this conference to Manchester. We will be meeting every third Sunday of each month, at 5:30 pm at Tirrell House at 15 Brook St, Manchester. Please use the back door to come in. Thank you for your support!

-David M.





GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

*Thursday, March 22nd - Original Happy Hour West 27th Anniversary,
5:30-7:30 pm, St. Andrew's Church Hall, 100 Main St, Manchester*

*Tuesday, March 27th - Pathway to Sobriety Anniversary, 6-9 pm,
South Main St. Church, 301 S Main St., Manchester*

*Sunday, May 20th - Sunday Serenity 36th Anniversary, 9-11 am,
Elliot Hospital Dining Room, 955 Auburn Street, Manchester*

CHANGES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

New Meeting: The Circle of Hope Group meets in the T&E Room at the VA Hospital On Smyth Road from 7-8 pm on Thursdays. This is a topic-discussion meeting.

March 30th- April 1st- NH Area 43's 46th Annual Convention

North Conway Grand Hotel, North Conway, NH.

Registration form and program updates can be found at www.nhaa.net.

Saturday April 28, 2012- District 12 Annual Spring Fling Dinner Dance

Parish of the Transfiguration Church Hall, 305 Kelley Street, Manchester

6 – 11 pm. Includes fellowship hour, three course Italian Dinner, Dancing, raffles, 2 guest speakers. Tickets: \$20 each, \$10 after 8 pm.

District 12 Functions Committee Email: district12functions@gmail.com.

Sunday May 6th- We Stopped in Time (YP) moves back to Manchester!

St. Marie Church, 378 Notre Dame Ave, Manchester, 8 – 9:30 pm.

Sunday, June 3rd- District 12 Bus Trip to Bill Wilson's birthplace in East Dorset, VT.

Celebrate Founder's Day with us as we take the Wilson Express (really!) to Vermont for a day of inspiration and fellowship. Tickets \$30.

Share YOUR voice of experience, strength, and hope through The Voice Within! Send your contribution to Cathy at voicewithinnews@gmail.com. The deadline for the June issue is May 11th. Writings on any topic are welcome, but if you would like a focus, how about Spring Cleaning? This could especially apply to any of the 4th through 9th steps.