

# The Voice Within

NHAA District 12 Newsletter

OCTOBER 2013



## THANKSGIVING DAY TRADITION and GRATITUDE MEETING with FIRST LIGHT OF DAY GROUP

On Thanksgiving morning, the First Light of Day Group dispenses with its regular Thursday format of a Big Book meeting. In its place is a tradition/ gratitude meeting with an extended time span of 1½ hours (6:30 – 8 am).

Born of an idea 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 pages 29 and 37 of As Bill Sees It, followed by a sharing by those present of their own personal feelings of gratitude.

Attendance at this particular meeting has grown over the years to fill the St. Andrew's hall to capacity- 2011 saw over 150 alcoholics present. Many of those who attend this special meeting are at a 6:30 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 among us, and the "genuine gratitude for the blessings received" serve as the basis for "living this day successfully."

**Please join us Thanksgiving morning, November 28, at St. Raphael's Church at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ferry Streets** for this celebration of the heartfelt GRATITUDE for 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 12 Steps.

## Snow White and the Seven Character Defects: A Spotlight on District 12 Workshops and Forums Activity

On Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>, members of AA gathered at St. Raphael's Church on Ferry and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets for the first ever District 12 Round-Up. Members of the Workshops and Forums Committee had been working for months to plan this event, and the result was fun, good recovery, and fellowship with old timers, newcomers, AA young people, Al-Anons, and old friends. The District 12 Functions Committee orchestrated the food, snacks, and (of course!) coffee.

The Round-Up began with registration and breakfast. The day was divided into three workshop sessions with three break-out sessions each. During the first session, attendees could go to the Al-Anon Workshop, a Safety Workshop, and the "Snow White and Seven Character Defects" skits, which dramatized the alcoholic's struggle with character defects in the form of seven dwarves.

But these were no Disney dwarves. They were Pride, a society lady with attitude; Fear, who didn't want to do anything new; Resentment, a truly *raging* alcoholic; Sloth, who would do anything tomorrow; Self-Pity, whose favorite whine was "poor me;" Sleazy, who was only interested in one-night stands and 13<sup>th</sup> Stepping; and Gluttony, who wanted more of everything. Adapted by Joanie B. and Brian M., the script showed recovery with humor, understanding, and insight. By the end of the play, even Sleazy was beginning to look at life differently!

During the second session, attendees could choose from the Young People's Workshop, a Mock District Meeting, and a Workshop on the AA Slogans. The Mock District Meeting demonstrated some of what happens at a district assembly meeting. This meeting was attended by the GSRs of the *I Sponsor Myself* Group, the *Under the Bridge* Group, the *As Laura Sees It* Group, and a member of the *Big Book Corrections Committee*. Results were chaotic, but the process did resemble the more orderly approach of a regular district meeting. When things got too confusing for the GSRs, the Voice of Reason (Alec Trebek) told them to choose to consult the audience, the service manual, the literature, an ancient DCM, a service sponsor, or Robert's Rules of Order. And so order was restored, somewhat.

After a generous lunch and an address on Unity

by former District 12 DCM Christopher B., Round-Up attendees went to the third session of workshops. This session offered a Relationships workshop, a "Red Ball" meeting, and a session on Unity and Your Home Group.

The Round-Up was a huge success, and the Workshops and Forums Committee followed up with a showing of the Bill Wilson movie on October 12<sup>th</sup> at Faithbridge Church, which sits at the corner of S. Main and Milford Streets.

This recently released film is both a biography of Bill Wilson and a history of the beginnings of Alcoholics Anonymous. It includes personal interviews, films and recordings of Bill and Dr. Bob, and personal information about Bill and Lois Wilson and their family. Popcorn, candy, and coffee were provided. Aside from minor issues like blown fuses and a visit from the Manchester Fire Department before the movie began, everything went smoothly! After the movie, there was a discussion. AA's new to District 12 commented that they were excited that our district offered sober events like this.

If you would like to get involved in the Workshops and Forums Committee or other District 12 Committees, contact your GSR for information, or visit the District 12 Website: [www.aadistrict12.org](http://www.aadistrict12.org). District assembly meetings are held on the third Sunday of every month from 6-8 pm at St. Raphael's Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ferry Streets, Manchester. -Cathy H.

**The Unity Prayer:** I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness. No longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady willpower. We are all together now, reaching out our hands for a power and strength greater than ours; and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams.

*The Voice Within is NH District 12's newsletter in print. Its purpose is to carry the message of recovery to alcoholics, inform members of district and group events, and publish original writing about recovery. Send your opinions, articles, announcements, and fliers to [voicewithinnews@gmail.com](mailto:voicewithinnews@gmail.com). The deadline for the December issue is Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme for the December issue is Carrying the Message, or the 12<sup>th</sup> Step.*

## DISTRICT 12 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**October 26:** The We Stopped in Time Group, in cooperation with District 12, is sponsoring a **Halloween Party and Dance** at the Parish of the Transfiguration, 305 Kelley Street, on Manchester's West Side. There will be a costume contest, all night dancing, fellowship, and a potluck dinner. Tickets are \$5.00 per person.

**December 24-December 25<sup>th</sup>: District 12 Alcathon from 6 pm Christmas Eve to 6 pm Christmas Day** at St. Raphael's Church Hall, corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ferry Streets, Manchester, NH. 24 Hours of AA Meetings, Raffles, Fine Food, Refreshments, Desserts, and Fellowship. Potluck is Welcome! All are Welcome to Attend, Family and Friends of AA included. For more information, contact the Alcathon Committee Chair, Terry F. at 603.851.3505.

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Eve Dinner Dance at Parish of the Transfiguration Church Hall,** 305 Kelley Street, Manchester, NH from 5:30 to 12:00 Midnight. Fellowship Hour with Appetizers and Refreshments, Pork Loin Dinner, Salads, Desserts, Amazing Raffles and Door Prizes, Live Band and Dancing!

Dinner Tickets \$20 in advance and at the door.  
Tickets \$10 after 7 pm.

For tickets and more information, contact Bob L at 603.370.1282 or Roger D at 603.540.5720.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**April 11-13, 2014: 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NH AA AREA 43 CONVENTION: Sobriety Rocks! Courtyard Marriott, Nashua, NH.**

