



VOICE WITHIN

Alcoholics
Anonymous –
District 12



Newsletter • July 2026

Serving Bedford, Goffstown, Hooksett, Manchester, and
New Boston

Featured Reflection: THE BEST FOR TODAY

Just as a sculptor will use different tools to achieve desired effects in creating a work of art, in Alcoholics Anonymous the Twelve Steps are used to bring about results in my own life. I do not overwhelm myself with life's problems, and how much more work needs to be done, I left myself be comforted in knowing that my life is now in the hands of my Higher Power, a master craftsman who is shaping each part of my life into a unique work of art. By working my program, I can be satisfied, knowing that "in doing the best that we can for today, we are doing all that God asks of us".

— Daily Reflections, July 1, 2026

A WORD FROM Your Delegate

June invites reflection in a special way. As I remember the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous June 10th, 1935, I am reminded that this Fellowship was born out of hope, surrender, and the willingness to begin again. What started as one alcoholic reaching out to another became a lifeline for countless people who needed not only sobriety, but a new way to live. That spirit of beginning again remains at the heart of my program today. My program provides opportunities for new beginnings all the time: at each new service position, at each new opportunity to sponsor, and at the start of each new day. I am not asked to solve a lifetime all at once. Instead, I am invited to live faithfully in the day that lies before me. As the Big Book reminds me, "On awakening let us think about the twenty-four hours ahead." That simple direction offers me both guidance and hope. It teaches me that every morning is another chance to seek connection with a higher power, practice willingness, and begin the new day with purpose. I am especially grateful for the way service continues to shape my recovery. Each position asks something new of me, and each one offers a fresh opportunity to listen, learn, grow, and be of use. Through service, I gain a broader understanding of our area, a deeper appreciation for the Fellowship, and a clearer sense of how connected I am to something larger than myself. It reminds me that growth in this program is not a single moment, but an ongoing path of willingness, humility, and action.

New beginnings are not rare in A.A.; they are woven into the fabric of the life I have been given here. I begin again when I accept help, when I offer help, when I take on service, and when I simply wake up willing to live this day sober and useful. For that, I am deeply grateful. In honoring the Fellowship's beginning in June, I am reminded that the miracle of Alcoholics Anonymous is not only that it began, but that it continues to offer me the grace to begin again—one day, one act of service, and one alcoholic helping another at a time.

Alex L.

A.A. FUN FACTS

- New Hampshire has ~ 580 groups, 831 meetings, and an estimated 9000 AA members
- On March 2, 1963, 350 people filled the Montreal Botanical Gardens Auditorium for the release of the new French edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. Joe C., one of the translators, presented Eve M., a GSO staff member from New York, with a copy of the book for A.A.'s living co-founder, Bill W.
- The third edition Spanish Big Book was published in February 2008. Currently in its thirteenth printing, it is distributed globally in the United States, Latin America, Europe and other countries.
- In the late 1960s, the World Service Meeting (WSM) was conceived as a closed forum where members from around the world could share with each other how A.A. operates in their respective countries. The WSM convenes every two years.
- Today, A.A. is present in approximately 181 countries, with about 66 G.S.O.s around the world. Most recently, virtual platforms have offered additional accessible avenues to potentially connect with alcoholics.

AA HISTORY JULY

July 1939 ~Warren C. joined A.A. Cleveland, caused debate because he was not hospitalized.

July 1944 ~Bob writes article for Grapevine "On Cultivating Tolerance".

July 1962 ~'Victor E' cartoon first appeared in Grapevine. (Some say May 1962).

July 1-3, 1960 ~25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA.

July 2-3 1955 ~20th Anniversary Convention at St. Louis, MO. The Three Legacies, of Recovery, Unity, and Service, turned over to the movement by the old timers. AA comes of Age.

July 2 1960 ~ Father Ed Dowling dies.

July 2 1965 ~ "Best of Bill" and Pocket-Sized "12 and 12" 1st sold.

July 2 1965 ~ 1st "La Vigne", Canadian Grapevine, published.

July 2-4 1965 ~ 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. Adopted "I Am Responsible."

July 2 1993 ~ 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada.

July 2, 2000 ~ 20 millionth copy of Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis, MN.

July 3-5 1970 ~ 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. "Declaration of Unity". Bill's last public appearance.

July 3-6 1980 ~ 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans. First true marathon meeting was held.

July 3-6, 1980 ~Gay AA's have own program at 45th AA Anniversary in New Orleans.

July 4, ~ 1939 ~1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY.

July 4-6, 1975 ~ 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver. World's largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day.

July 5-7, 1985 ~ 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada. Ruth Hock was given 5,000,000th Big Book. House of Seagram's flew their flags at half mast for 3 days.

July 5-8, 1990 ~55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA. Nell Wing was given 10,000,000th Big Book.

July 7, 1940 ~ Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University.

July 8, 1940 ~ 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio.

July 10, 1941 ~Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group.
(Larry J)

July 11, 1960 ~Time published article called “Passionately Anonymous” on the 25th Convention.

July 14, 1939 ~Dr Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him.

July 15 1938 ~1st documented use name Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A. archives letter Bill to Willard Richardson.

July 16, 1965 ~Frank Amos, AA Non-Alcoholic Trustee, dies.

July 18 1938 ~In letter to Dr. Richards at Johns Hopkins, Bill used Alcoholics Anonymous as working title for Big Book & name for the fellowship.

July 20, 1941 ~First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington.

July 22, 1877 ~William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY.

July 22, 1980 ~Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies.

July 23, 1940 ~Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent.

July 23, 1943 ~New Haven CT Register reports arrival of AA's to study with E M Jellinek.

July 24, 1943 ~L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group.

July 28-30, 1950 ~First AA International Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio. Twelve Traditions adopted.
Dr. Bob made last appearance at large AA gathering.

July 31, 1972 ~ Rollie H dies sober in Washington DC.

SPECIAL EVENTS JULY & AUGUST

JULY

**24-26th - DISTRICT 18 “KEEP IT SIMPLE” CAMPOUT – NORTHSTAR CAMPGROUND,
NEWPORT, NH.**

AUGUST

**15th - DISTRICT 12 SUMMER OUTING BBQ – BEAR BROOK STATE PARK, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00
PM.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Call for Theme Suggestions for the 2030 International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, July 4-7, 2030

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about a theme for the 2030 International Convention celebration of A.A.'s 95th Anniversary in St. Louis, Missouri, July 4-7, 2030. We invite you to send in suggestions that will be reviewed and selected by the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee.

For inspiration, here are the themes of past A.A. International Conventions:

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| ● 1965: "I Am Responsible" | ● 2000: "Pass It On — Into the 21st Century" |
| ● 1970: "Unity" | ● 2005: "I Am Responsible" |
| ● 1975: "Let It Begin With Me" | ● 2010: "A Vision for You" |
| ● 1980: "The Joy of Living" | ● 2015: "80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free" |
| ● 1985: "Fifty Years With Gratitude" | ● 2020: «Amour et tolérance, voilà notre code» |
| ● 1990: "Fifty-Five Years — One Day At a Time" | ● 2025: "90 Years — Language of the Heart" |
| ● 1995: "A.A. Everywhere — Anywhere" | |

**Send your ideas to 2030ictheme@aa.org
by October 9, 2026.**

STEPS/TRADITIONS/CONCEPTS

The Twelve Steps are outlined in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. They can be found at the beginning of the chapter "How It Works." Essays on the Steps can be read in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

STEP 7, TWELVE & TWELVE PAGE 70

"Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."

The Twelve Traditions provide guidelines for relationships between the groups, members, the global Fellowship and society at large. Questions of finance, public relations, donations and purpose are addressed in the Traditions. There is both a short form and a long

form of the Traditions. The Traditions were first published in the April 1946 AA Grapevine under the title “Twelve Points to Assure Our Future.”

TRADITION 7, TWELVE & TWELVE PAGE 161

“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions.”

The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.’s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.’s early history and experience

CONCEPT 7

“The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.”

All issues of The Voice Within are sponsored through the 7th Tradition. Length and Format: The newsletter may publish works of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes, to full page articles (500–1000-word count).

I am looking for content for the next issue – WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM SOBRIETY? Please email me at slk.kuhl@gmail.com – I’d love to gather as many responses as I can. Attachments can be sent by e-mail and should be submitted in word format. Handwritten text can be delivered to myself, or your GSR, who can deliver them to the next district meeting. voicewithinnews@gmail.com

In Love and Service,

Susanne K. (617) 291-2498