

District 13 Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 02

February 2008

Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of this newsletter will be to carry the message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs. This newsletter's goal is to create a more informed community within AA as it serves District 13. The opinions expressed are those of the contributor, not necessarily that of District 13 or AA as a whole.

Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Concept Two

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society in its world affairs.

God grant me the Serenity to Accept the Things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.

Estimates of AA Groups and Members

Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult to obtain completely accurate figures on total membership at any given time. Some local groups are not listed with the U.S./Canada General Service Office. Others do not provide membership data, thus are not recorded on the G.S.O. computer records.

The membership figures listed below are based on reports to the General Service Office as of January 1, 2007, plus an average allowance for groups that have not reported their membership. There is no practical way of counting members who are not affiliated with a local group.

Estimated A.A. Membership and Group Information	
Groups in U.S.	53,665
Members in U.S	1,213,269
Groups in Canada	4,874
Members in Canada	95,443
Groups Overseas	53,590
Members Overseas	616,899
Internationalists	65
Groups in Correctional Facilities (U.S./Canada)	2,432
Members in Correctional Facilities	63,357
Lone Members	227
Total Members:	1,989,260
Total Groups:	114,561

INTERNATIONALISTS (SEAGOING A.A.s)

Approximately 65 persons in naval service or the merchant marine on sea duty describe themselves as "A.A. Internationalists." General Service Office staff members correspond with these members and make it possible for them to correspond with each other. Internationalists have been responsible for starting and encouraging local A.A. groups in many ports.

LONERS

Some 227 men and women living in isolated areas throughout the world (or in areas where it has not been possible to form a local group) are listed at the General Service Office as Lone Members. Many achieved sobriety solely through study of A.A. literature. They correspond with G.S.O. and with their counterparts in other sections of the world. In a number of cases, notably U.S. military installations overseas, Loners have been responsible for establishing local groups.

Alcoholics Anonymous, by Jack Alexander **Saturday Evening Post Article March 1st, 1941**

(Continued from the January Issue of the District 13 Newsletter)

TWENTY PILGRIMS from Cleveland caught the idea in Akron and returned home to start a group of their own. From Cleveland, by various means, the movement has spread to Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Atlanta, San Francisco, Evansville, and other cities. An alcoholic Cleveland newspaperman with a surgically collapsed lung moved to Houston for his health. He got a job on a Houston paper, and through a series of articles, which he wrote for it, started an A.A. unit, which now has thirty-five members. One Houston member has moved to Miami and is now laboring to snare some of the more eminent winter-colony lushes. A Cleveland traveling salesman is responsible for starting small units in many different parts of the county. Fewer than half of the A.A. members has ever seen Griffith or Dr. Armstrong.

To an outsider who is mystified, as most of us are, by the antics of problem-drinking friends, the results, which have been achieved, are amazing. This is especially true of the more virulent cases, a few of which are herewith sketched under names that are not their own.

Sara Martin was a product of the F. Scott Fitzgerald era. Born of wealthy parents in a Western City, she went to Eastern boarding schools and "finished" in France. After making her debut, she married. Sara spent her nights drinking and dancing until daylight. She was known as a girl who could carry a lot of liquor. Her husband had a weak stomach, and she became disgusted with him. They were quickly divorced. After her father's fortune had been erased in 1929, Sara got a job in New York and supported herself. In 1932, seeking adventure, she went to Paris to live and set up a business of her own, which was successful. She continued to drink heavily and stayed drunk longer than usual. After a spree in 1933, she was informed that she had tried to throw herself out a window. During another bout, she did jump or fall - she doesn't remember which - out of a first-floor window. She landed face first on the sidewalk and was laid up for fix months of bone setting, dental work, and plastic surgery.

IN 1936, Sara Martin decided that if she changed her environment by returning to the United States, she

would be able to drink normally. This childish faith in geographical change is a classic delusion, which all alcoholics get at one time, or another. She was drunk all the way home on the boat. New York frightened her and she drank to escape it. Her money ran out and she borrowed from friends. When the friends cut her, she hung around Third Avenue bars, cadging drinks from strangers. Up to this point she had diagnosed her trouble as a nervous breakdown. Not until she had committed herself to several sanitariums did she realize, through reading, that she was an alcoholic. On advice of a staff doctor, she got in touch with an Alcoholics Anonymous group. Today, she has another good job and spends many of her nights sitting on hysterical women drinkers to prevent them from diving out of windows. In her late thirties, Sara Martin is an attractively serene woman. The Paris surgeons did handsomely by her.

Watkins is a shipping clerk in a factory. Injured in an elevator mishap in 1927, he was furloughed with pay by a company, which was thankful that he did not sue for damages. Having nothing to do during a long convalescence, Watkins loafed in speakeasies. Formerly a moderate drinker, he started to go on drunks lasting several months. His furniture went for debt, and his wife fled, taking their three children. In eleven years, Watkins was arrested twelve times and served eight workhouse sentences. Once, in an attack of delirium tremens, he circulated a rumor among the prisoners that the county was poisoning the food in order to reduce the workhouse population and save expenses. A mess-hall riot resulted. In another fit of D.T.'s, during which he thought the man in the cell above was trying to pour hot lead on him, Watkins slashed his own wrists and throat with a razor blade. While recuperating in an outside hospital, with eighty-six stitches, he swore never to drink again. He was drunk before the final bandages were removed. Two years ago, a former drinking companion got him to Alcoholics Anonymous, and he hasn't touched liquor since. His wife and children have returned, and the home has new furniture. Back at work, Watkins has paid off the major part of \$2,000 in debts and petty alcoholic thefts and has his eye on a new automobile.

*(Continued next month in the March
District 13 Newsletter)*

The Promises

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.

We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.

We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace.

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

Self-seeking will slip away.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.

We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not.

They are being fulfilled among us - sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

They will always materialize if we work for them.

Alcoholics Anonymous pp.83-84

When It All Began: Bill, Bob and...Henrietta??

When Alcoholics Anonymous wanted to mark its birthplace, it looked to the gatehouse of Stan Hywet in Akron. It was there that the two best-known characters in the Alcoholics Anonymous movement -- Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson -- first met. But there was another person present; Henrietta Buckler Seiberling arranged the meeting, helped nurture the early organization and ever reminded the AA leaders of the need for a strong spiritual underpinning for an alcoholic's recovery.

Seiberling was satisfied to work in the background. The social customs of the day, her background as well as the background of her husband, explained why she opted to play such a role.

Henrietta Buckler was born in Lawrenceburg, Ky., on March 18, 1888. She was reared in Texas where her father, Julius Augustus Buckler, was a judge of the Common Pleas Court. She was well educated, graduating from Vassar College, when she was only 15. She majored in music, ideal for the well-bred



Henrietta Seiberling

lady of the day. In 1917, she married John Fredrick Seiberling, eldest son of Akron industrialist F. A. Seiberling.



Gate House on Seiberling Estate, Akron OH

The Seiberlings had made their fortune -- and lost it -- and gained it back in Akron's rubber industry. By 1917, the Seiber-

lings had already earned their place in Akron society. Matriarch of the clan, [Gertrude Seiberling](#), was already one of the leaders in the city's cultural and musical scene. John Fredrick and Henrietta moved to Akron after their marriage.

Seiberling was not an alcoholic; she was, however, involved with the [Oxford Movement](#), an evangelical fellowship of intellectuals who believed in the responsibility of Christians to solve social problems. Seiberling helped organize the group's "alcoholic squad" in Akron.

Dates To Remember

District 13 Function Committee
Tuesday Nights @
Good Shepherd Church
6-7pm

Area Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 27th
1-4pm Hooksett

Area Committee Meeting
Sunday, February 17th
1-4pm Hooksett

District 13 GSR Meeting
Wednesday February 20th
7pm @ the Merrimack YMCA

NERAASA 2008
March 7-9th
Galloway NJ
www.neraasa.org

NERD (North East Regional Delegates)
Saturday March 22nd
8am — 3pm Killington, VT

**Area Assembly -
PRE-CONFERENCE
ASSEMBLY**
(hosted by District 15)

**42nd Annual New Hampshire
Area Convention**
April 11—13th
North Conway Grand Hotel
North Conway, NH

Area Committee Meeting
Sunday, April 27th
1-4pm Hooksett

**ALKATHON 2007 -
GREAT SUCCESS**

District 13 Alkathon Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who committed their time during the Alkathon. It was a great success and we would have not been able to do it without all of you.

We will meet again August 21st for the 2008 Alkathon. More information to follow as the date approaches.

**Newsletter Contributions are
Welcome**

This is YOUR Newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article or personal experience for publication or advertise an upcoming event for your group, **please** send the information to:

District 13 News
P.O. Box 3513
Nashua, NH 03061
Or Email us at:
newsletter@nhaa13.org

**Deadline For Next Issue —
February 10th 2008**

**TERRACE
GROUP 18TH
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY**

**THURSDAY
MARCH
6TH
HARBOR
HOMES
(FRONT
HALL)**

**6:30 TO 7:30
DINNER
BUFFET**

**7:30 TO 9:00
SPEAKERS**

**GIFT AND
BOOK
RAFFLES**