

District 13 Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 09

<http://www.nhaa13.org/>

September 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 it's 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 Nine

AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Step Nine

Made direct to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

The Grapevine Archives Presents: **Book Publishing Proved Discouraging Venture**

- Bill W. (July 1947)

During the summer of 1938 we solicited the well-to-do for contributions to fill that brand new receptacle, our Alcoholic Foundation. Again we encountered a strange indifference to drunks. Nobody was interested. We didn't get a cent that I can remember. We were pretty discouraged; apparently providence had deserted us. With the modest fund from Mr. Rockefeller running out, it looked like a lean winter ahead. There could be no book, no office. What good, we complained, was an Alcoholic Foundation without money!

By this time there had been roughed out what are now the first two chapters of the book now known as Alcoholics Anonymous. Our friend Frank referred us to a well known publisher who suggested the possibility of advancing royalties to me so the book could be finished. That made us feel fine until it was realized that if I ate up a lot of royalties while doing the book, there could be no payments for a long time afterward. We saw, too, that my 10 per cent royalty would never carry the office expense of answering the pleas for help that would surely follow publication. Nor might a commercial publisher, anxious for sales, advertise it as we would like it.

Publishers Without a Book

These reflections led us straight into a typical alcoholic fantasy! Why not publish the book ourselves? Though told by almost everybody who knew anything of publishing that amateurs seldom produced anything but flops, we were not dismayed. This time, we said, it would be different. We had discovered that the bare printing cost of a book is but a fraction of its retail price and a national magazine of huge circulation had offered to print an article about us when our book was furnished. This was a clincher. How could we miss? We could see books selling by hundreds of thousands—money rolling in!

What promotion it was! An A.A. friend and I hastily organized the Works Publishing Co. My friend Hank P., then bought a pad of stock certificates at a stationary store. He and I started selling them to brother alcoholics and any who would buy at the bargain price of \$25 a share. Our confidence must have been boundless. Not only were we selling common stock on a book to cure drunks - the book itself hadn't yet been written. Amazingly enough, we did sell that stock, \$4,500 worth, to alcoholics in New York, New Jersey, and to their friends. No one of the original 49 sub

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

scribers put up over \$300. Almost everybody paid on monthly installments, being too broke to do otherwise; save, of course, our good friends at Rockefeller Center.

Our agreement with the Works Publishing subscribers was that out of the first book income they were to get their money back; also that The Alcoholic Foundation was to receive the 10 percent roy-

“I had thought myself the author of the text until I discovered I was just the umpire of the differences of opinion.”

- Bill W

might have had from the publisher. As for the shares of Works Publishing, the 49 cash subscribers were to have one third, my friend Hank one third, and I one third. We obtained a loan of \$2,500 from Charles B.T., proprietor of a nationally known hospital for alcoholics. A friend indeed, he was to wait years to get his money back.

But, as anyone could see, everything was all set - everything, of course but writing and selling the book! Hope ran high. Out of the new financing we could keep a small office going at Newark, New Jersey. There I began to dictate the text of Alcoholics Anonymous to Ruth H. (our first national secretary). Rosily we saw scads of money coming in, once the book was off the press. Still more, we expected the new book would turn right about and help finance our poverty stricken Foundation - which, strangely enough, it really did years later.

Finally came 1939. The book was done. Tales of recovery for its story section had been supplied by Dr. Bob and his Akron brethren. Others were supplied by New Yorkers, New Jerseyites. One came in from Cleveland and another from Maryland. Chapters had been read and discussed at meetings. I had thought myself the author of the text until I discovered I was just the umpire of the differences of opinion. After endless voting on a title for the new work we had decided to call it The Way Out. But inquiry by Fritz M., our Maryland alcoholic, at The Library of Congress disclosed the fact that 12 books already bore that title. Surely we couldn't make our book the 13th. So we named it Alcoholics Anony-

mous instead! Though we didn't know it, our movement then got its name - a name which because of the implication of humility and modesty has given us our treasured spiritual principle of anonymity.

Five thousand copies of Alcoholics Anonymous lay in the printer's warehouse, except the few we joyously passed around. Each stockholder and each story writer got one free. The New York Times did a good review. We hastened to the national magazine to tell them we were ready for their promised article. We could see A.A. books going out in carload lots.

Things Weren't Rosy at All

What a debacle! At the office of the great monthly periodical we were gently told they had entirely forgotten to let us know, nine months before, that they had decided to print nothing about us. The editors had concluded that drunks were too controversial a subject! This stunning announcement left us in a daze. The whole Alcoholics Anonymous movement could buy less than a hundred books, as it had only one hundred members. Besides, we had given away 79 free ones! What were we to do with those other thousands of books? What could we say to the printer, whose bill wasn't half paid? What about that little loan of \$2,500 and those 49 subscribers who had invested \$4,500 in Works Publishing stock? How could we break the awful news to them? How could we tell them that since we had no publicity we could sell no books? Yes, that A.A. book venture was, I fear, very alcoholic.

Thus was the good book Alcoholics Anonymous born into bankruptcy. Some of the creditors got restive; the sheriff actually appeared at our Newark office. The promoters were very low-financially and otherwise. The house I which my wife and I had lived at Brooklyn was taken over by the bank. We took up residence in a summer camp loaned us by A.A. friend. Horace C. and his family. My friend Hank fared no better. Things certainly looked bleak. Still, only three active A.A. groups, we had acquired besides bankrupt A.A. book, one unpaid but loyal secretary, a tiny Central Office that might have to close any day and an Alcoholic Foundation with no money in it. That was the score after four years of Alcoholics Anonymous.

(Excerpt from The Grapevine July 1947 reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

ALKATHON UPDATES

**GET ACTIVE
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO JOIN THE ALKATHON COMMITTEE**

Volunteers Needed

The Alkathon Committee Will Meet in September
Thursday the 4th
Thursday the 18th

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
MAIN ST in NASHUA FROM 6:00 TO 7:00**

**The Alkathon is 33 hours of continuous meetings, fellowship, food and fun
Starting Wednesday, Christmas Eve at noon with a luncheon and ends
Thursday, Christmas Night at 8:00 pm.**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**“The purpose of the Alkathon Committee is to provide a safe and healthful environment for those
persons with a desire to stay sober during the Holiday Season”
Any questions contact Steve C. at 204-7907 or Michelle H. at 566-2731
“Give back what has freely been given to you”**

Newsletter Deadline

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
Email:newsletter@nhaa13.org

Deadline For Next Issue — August 12th 2008

Dates To Remember

District 13 Function Committee

Thursday Nights @
Good Shepherd Church
Nashua 6-7pm

Area Assembly

Hosted by District 17
Saturday, August 23rd

Area Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 28th
1 - 4pm Hooksett

Area Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 26th
8am - 4pm

**Area Assembly -
AREA INVENTORY**

Hosted by District 13
Saturday, November 22nd

Area Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 28th
1 - 4pm Hooksett

THE PIPELINE NEEDS YOUR HELP

FACT:

The Pipeline needs at least 100 group subscriptions to make their minimum for bulk mailing.

THE PROBLEM:

They are currently short on subscriptions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Subscribe now!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST:

\$6 Group Subscription (10 copies mo/annually)

\$3.50 Individual Subscription (2 copies)

ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER? HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF:

Donating a subscription to a treatment center, halfway house, or correctional facility in your community?

Please send subscription info to:

NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Rd, Hooksett NH 03106

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the gap is a temporary contact program to help "Bridge the Gap" between a person released from a Correctional or Treatment facility and A.A. Meetings. A volunteer is not a sponsor, although they may sponsor the person if they choose to.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a verity of A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.'s; ensures that he or she has the phone numbers of several A.A. members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

For more information or to volunteer please visit:

www.mv.com/ipusers/nhaa/BridgingTheGap.html

Did you know ...

that you can view the District 13 Newsletter (as well as a host of other information) online via the World Wide Web?

<http://www.nhaa13.org/>

District 13 Hotline Needs Your Help!

Is answering a call from a stranger in need 12th Step Work? You bet it is!

If you're interested in adding your contact information to the District 13 Phone List please give your information to your GSR.

1-2 years of sobriety is suggested