

District 13 Newsletter



Volume 12 Issue 7

July 2007

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 Seven

Every A.A. Group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Step Seven

Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

Concept 7

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Services 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.

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.

I Stand at the Door

By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)

I stand by the door.
I neither go to far in, nor stay to far out.
The door is the most important door in the world -
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.
There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where the door ought to be.
They creep along the wall like blind men,
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it.

So I stand by the door.
The most tremendous thing in the world
Is for men to find that door - the door to God.
The most important thing that any man can do
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands
And put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks
And opens to the man's own touch.
Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter.
Die for want of what is within their grasp.

They live on the other side of it -
live because they have not found it.
Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him.

So I stand by the door.
Go in great saints; go all the way in -
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,
And way up into the spacious attics.
It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.
Some must inhabit those inner rooms
And know the depths and heights of God,
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
Sometimes I take a deeper look in.

(Continued on pg 2)

(Continued from pg 1)

Sometimes venture in a little farther,
But my place seems closer to the opening.
They live on the other side of it -
live because they have not found it.
Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,
And open it, and walk in, and find Him.

So I stand by the door.
Go in great saints; go all the way in -
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,
And way up into the spacious attics.
It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.
Some must inhabit those inner rooms
And know the depths and heights of God,
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
Sometimes I take a deeper look in.
Sometimes venture in a little farther,
But my place seems closer to the opening.

So I stand by the door.
There is another reason why I stand there.
Some people get part way in and become afraid
Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them;
For God is so very great and asks all of us.
And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia
And want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry.
And the people way inside only terrify them more.
Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they are
spoiled.
For the old life, they have seen too much:

One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more.
Somebody must be watching for the frightened
Who seek to sneak out just where they came in,
To tell them how much better it is inside.
The people too far in do not see how near these are
To leaving - preoccupied with the wonder of it all.
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the
door
But would like to run away.

So for them too, I stand by the door.
I admire the people who go way in.
But I wish they would not forget how it was
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help
The people who have not yet even found the door.
Or the people who want to run away again from God.
You can go in too deeply and stay in too long
And forget the people outside the door.

As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him and know He is there,
But not so far from men as not to hear them,
And remember they are there too.
Where? Outside the door -Thousands of them. Millions of
them.
But - more important for me -One of them, two of them,
ten of them.
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch.
So I shall stand by the door and wait
For those who seek it.'I had rather be a door-keeper

So I stand by the door.

Submitted by Dave R. Manchester, NH

The origin of sponsorship described below:

Reprinted from *AA Comes of Age*, Bill W. states of this period, approximately 1940.

“It was soon evident that a scheme of personal sponsorship would have to be devised for the new people. Each prospect was assigned an older AA, who visited at his home or in the hospital, instructed him on AA principles, and conducted him to his first meeting. But in the face of many hundreds of pleas for help, the supply of elders could not possibly meet the demand. Brand-new AA's, sober only a month or even a week, had to sponsor alcoholics still drying up in hospitals...”

Help!! Support your local Group

The 7th Tradition states : We are self-supporting through our own contributions.” We need your help, thanks.

Volunteers Needed

Help is needed transporting people to meetings. Volunteers are required to have one year sobriety. Call Gail at 881-4848 for more info

Dates To Remember

July 18th

District 13 GSR Meeting, YMCA, Merrimack-7:00pm

June 24 and July 22

Area Committee Meeting
Hooksett - 1:00 - 4:00pm

Every Thursday

District 13 Function Committee
Good Shepherd, Nashua
6:00-7:00 PM

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:dcm@nhaa13org
Subject line: District 13 Newsletter

**Deadline For Next Issue —
July 14th 2007**

THE DISTRICT 13 FUNCTION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

GAME NIGHT!

SATURDAY JUNE 23RD 5PM–10PM

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

When Things Go Wrong

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes do,
remember, to thine own self be true.
Be fearless when you search your heart,
think, “where in this did I play a part?”
Did I hurt someone with my words or actions?
Then you will receive self satisfaction.
When you do the next right thing,
the sense of ease, or peace it brings,
is worth more than money, more than fame,
when for someone else it does the same.
When you think to yourself that this is wrong,
know things are just as they belong.
Be careful what you do or say,
before you act out, just think or pray.
Whether by the minute or by the hour,
put your trust in your Higher Power.
When things go wrong, or so you think,
no matter what, you still can't drink.*

*- Eric P
St. Joe's Early Birds
Nashua*

New A.A. Stories Speak Directly To Young Alcoholics

For Immediate Release

- April 5, 2007

“If I could have stayed cool, I’d still be drinking. Very quickly, though, I started getting in trouble. Going to sixth grade got in the way of my life, which consisted of getting as drunk as possible.” [After rehab] “I was going to meetings. Everyone was older. Even most of the kids at young people meetings. But I found that alcoholics understand other alcoholics...Regardless of how young or how old or ‘special’ I am, in AA I’m just a drunk.” **Tina, who joined AA at 13.**

“I loved drinking and was as addicted to the lies, the shady people and places as I was to the alcohol. My grades suffered until I stopped going to school altogether...I found myself in places without any idea of how I’d gotten there. I overdosed on alcohol.” Since coming to AA, “I have been given the opportunity to grow up with the Twelve Steps in my life. It is with the utmost gratitude that I just celebrated my 19th year of continuous sobriety.” **Kevin who joined AA at 14.**

NEW YORK CITY— Tina and Kevin are two of the 19 very young alcoholics who relate their experience in a revised pamphlet just released from Alcoholics Anonymous: “Young People and AA.” Eight recollections by early teen and preteen alcoholics are included in the new edition, which also contains most of the original stories by alcoholics 25 and under.

The young AA’s speak candidly about their preconceived notions of A.A. and what happened when they stepped tentatively into their first meetings. As Nicole, who sobered up at 14, says, “I knew AA held the solution to alcoholism. What I didn’t know was that anyone old enough to have a problem, was old enough to seek help from A.A.”

Since the fellowship began in 1935, the age of new members has constantly dropped. A.A. groups for young people began appearing as early as 1945 in Los Angeles, Cleveland and Philadelphia, and now can be found across the United States and Canada. Today, approximately 10 percent of AA members are under 30.

In reaching out to young Alcoholics, A.A. offers them a variety of special literature and audiovisual materials, mainly available in Spanish and French as well as English. The stories help the young newcomer to A.A. understand that an alcoholic can “hit bottom” without going through 20-plus years of drinking, never mind the loss of family, friends, and financial stability. Through identification with the recovery stories of people their own age—they learn they never have to feel so alone and frightened again - and can lead comfortable, happy, even exciting lives in sobriety.

Among other A.A. pamphlets that speak directly to young people are three in comic-book format. “Too Young,” in which teenagers 13 to 18 share their drinking stories; the newly revised “It Happened To Alice,” geared to young female alcoholics, and “What Happened To Joe,” which tells the story of a young construction worker on the edge of alcoholic self-destruction. A counterpoint to the pamphlet, “Young People and A.A.” is the 28-minute video of the same name in which four young A.A. members tell the stories of their drinking and recovery in A.A., with closed captions for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

To obtain a copy of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” or other A.A. literature and service material, call your local A.A. Intergroup or Central Office. For further information about A.A. please contact the Public Information desk at the A.A. General Office, (212) 870-3119 or publicinfo@aa.org.