

# The County Connection Fall & Winter Edition 2016

## District 23 Area 86

### Members Articles

I was asked to write my thoughts about the fellowship of AA and what it has meant to me so far. First of all, I am a grateful alcoholic and I am happy to write about my experience in AA. Before coming into the fellowship I would have never said "I am grateful to be an alcoholic". In fact, I would've thought people that said that were nuts. I was raised around AA and attended many open meetings with my dad. I was fortunate to know about 12 step and the importance of fellowship as a young girl. Of course, being around AA and admitting that I had a problem with alcohol was an entirely different thing. It was a humbling experience and one that has changed my life forever. But what growth is without pain?!

My life has changed so much in a relatively short time and I owe it to the fellowship and to my Higher Power. Due to becoming self aware and learning to turn my life over to my Higher Power, I have been able to face situations and make decisions that I would never have had the courage to do before program. Through the support of my home group, my Higher Power, attending at least three meetings a week and keeping in touch with fellow members, I feel a sense of peace and belonging that I truly have never felt. For these things I am very grateful. For me, alcoholism brought me to this program and through this program is where I learned that it was my thinking, my lack of spirituality and my lack of self love that was defective. I am not here because of alcohol; it was the catalyst to getting me to say "I give" because my way of life was not working. Before AA, I was not living and I was an emotional and spiritual mess.

Since coming into the fellowship, I have gotten a sponsor, joined a group, participated in a 12 step study and got active in service at the local district. I enjoy being a part of and contributing, especially helping other women in recovery. I have wonderful friends, sponsees and mentors with whom I talk with regularly. This is definitely a WE program. Life continues to throw me obstacles and they have been challenging as of late. However, by working the 12 steps and the 12 traditions the best way I know how, I am learning how to deal with life. I hope to continue growing and finding peace inside. I am forever grateful to my father, my mentor Bob and other long timers who paved the road for me.

Love & fellowship always,

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Don't determine your worth by comparing yourself with others.  
It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what others deem important.  
Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart;  
cling to them as you would your life, for without them life  
is meaningless.

## Concepts

When I finally got into a service position that took me to the District meetings, I got a service sponsor and he told me I should read the service manual and especially read the Concepts. My very first sponsor told me to read the big book from the front to the back including all the stories and not to worry if I didn't understand what I read. "Just read it" he said. So that's what I did with the Concepts. Didn't understand them. Didn't know what they were about. Didn't think I needed to know what they were about. Asked some other people what the Concepts were about and they didn't know what they were about either. So I went blissfully along, ignorant about what the Concepts were, and not worrying about them at all.

I then got a little more involved in service work and found that there were some questions that I didn't know the answers to and was told I'd find the answers in the Service Manual, Traditions or the Concepts. The Traditions were relatively simple. I had already been involved with them and had a working knowledge of how they worked. Not so with the Concepts.

So it was back to looking at the Concepts. Someone, somewhere, mentioned that the Concepts came from past practices that were being practiced in the groups long before they were ever written on paper. So I started reading again and that is actually where they came from. I tried to relate them to my group and found they were happening in my group.

We had regular business meetings and at those business meetings several things happened that related to the Concepts. Everyone at the business meeting had a vote, everyone got to state their opinion, and if someone did not understand what was being discussed then someone explained sometimes in great detail, sometimes very simply, and many times on both sides of the issue, until everyone knew what was being discussed and why. After the vote the chair asked if those in the minority wished to voice their opinion. Sometimes new information or way of looking at the issue was revealed and a new vote took place.

We had a prudent reserve for emergencies.

The Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson, greeters, GSR, and coffee/setup persons all had duties to perform and they had been informed of those duties, some in writing and some verbally.

We had a couple of members that could be depended upon to oversee our group in all its affairs. Those we referred to as our elder statesmen/stateswomen and they performed the same duties as the Trustees.

So you see the Concepts are not really that foreign and they can and are being used in our groups. After all, that is where they originated.

## Yours in Service

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Don't let your life slip through your fingers  
by living in the past or for the future.

By living your life ONE DAY AT A TIME  
you will live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give.

Nothing is really over.....until the moment you stop trying

**PENTHOUSE**

Dave T. Jan. 4 1983  
Serge B. Jan. 8 1988  
Rick O. Jan. 30 1995  
Barb B. Feb. 22 1991  
Mike L. Apr. 10 1983  
Billy T. Apr. 18 2006  
Jim B. Apr. 24 1979  
Tom. O. May 1 2005  
Bob H. June 3 2005  
Jeff D. June 24 2008  
Chris R. July 17 2009  
Roy R. Aug. 2 1996  
Monique N. June 17 2010  
Barb M. Oct. 4 2004  
Gary V. Oct. 13 2003  
Jim L. Oct. 15 1985  
Tom C. Oct. 23 1985  
Bob P. Dec. 8 1983  
Ken M. Dec. 12 2000  
Tim C. Dec. 19 1992

**LIVE AND LET LIVE**

Ron K. Jan. 10 1981  
Dale R. Jan. 31, 1987  
Brian A. April 14, 2007  
Lloyd G. Apr. 15 1993  
Glen R. May 14 1978  
Trudy L. Sept 2, 2016  
Cathy N. Oct 12, 2014  
Mary K. Oct. 5 1980

**Removed by Group  
conscience 2010**

NEW BEGINNINGS  
McGREGOR  
HUMBLE BEGINNINGS  
COURAGE TO CHANGE  
ESSEX  
FIRST THINGS FIRST  
MORNING FELLOWSHIP  
WHEATLEY ACTION  
THINK THINK THINK

**FELLOWSHIP OF MIRACLES**

Myra G. Jan. 18 2004  
Russ M. Jan. 18 1979  
Jeff L. Mar. 1 1994  
Rosie V. Apr. 18 1996  
Judy P. Apr. 28 2007  
Randall June 20 2004  
Dave K. July 18 1993  
Gary B. July 29 2004  
Linda M. Sept. 3 1982

**HARROW GROUP**

Stephen M. Jan. 8 2007  
Beverly H. Feb. 14 2009  
Dave D. Feb. 15 1997  
Joel B. Apr. 4 2008  
Patty K. Apr. 26 2001  
Shari D. May 16 2008  
Mike L. May 22 1997  
Tim C. June 1 2009  
Larry T. June 28 1980  
Kevin D. Sept. 11 2004  
Matt J. Sept. 12 2009  
Scott N. Oct. 2 2009  
Chris B. Oct. 5 2009  
Al K. Dec. 20 2004

**SUN PARLOUR**

Bill W. Dec. 2 1974  
Dave H. Jan. 9 1973  
Don S. Jan. 9 1987  
Betty F. May 21 1977  
Paul P. June 10 1985  
Gary F. July 9 1980  
Ellen C. July 28 1989  
Kim F. Aug. 15 1981  
Leonard A. Aug. 18 1981  
Dave C. Feb. 9th. 2013  
Terry M. June 26th. 2009  
Rob G. Aug. 2nd. 2011  
Janet H. Nov. 24th., 1996  
Dave M. Nov. 23 1982  
Mike C. Dec. 25 1988

**LEAMINGTON**

Roy P. Jan. 18 2007  
John M. Jan. 20 1988  
Dorothy C. Feb. 14 1991  
Jack L. Mar. 4 1977  
Mark K. Mar. 5 2000  
George M. Mar. 9 1966  
Dennis T. Mar. 13 2007  
Louanne Mar. 18 2007  
Jack W. Mar. 27 2003  
George B. Apr. 4 2009  
Tim W. Apr. 19 2002  
Al A. Apr. 22 1990  
Mark T. Apr. 27 1993  
Kelly M. May 1 1992  
Curtis G. May 8 2008  
Lori C. May 11 1995  
Jamie W. May 18 2009  
Bob B. May 19 1976  
Roger R. May 28 1988  
Jeff O. June 7 2005  
Crystal V. June 27 2005  
Maynor O. June 27 2009  
Tim S. July 12 1989  
Larry R. July 14 1978  
Rudy K. July 14 1978  
Scott K. Aug. 3 1984  
Ben H. Aug. 10 1998  
Paul J. Aug. 12 2001  
Henry D. Aug. 13 1999  
Tina M. Aug. 22 2008  
Greg L. Sept. 8 1997  
Chris M. Sept. 11 2006  
David R. Sept. 20 2002  
Terry C. Sept. 20 2004  
Dave Sept. 23 1982  
Todd W. Sept. 27 1990  
Mark L. Sept. 26 2000  
Bill W. Oct. 1 1981  
Fred C. Oct. 9 2005  
Linda H. Oct. 11 2008  
Ron E. Oct. 19 1987  
Mark W. Nov. 5 2007  
Sabrina N. Nov. 5 2007  
Marc B. Nov. 20 2007  
Barb H. Dec. 17 1980  
Walter T. Dec. 27 1974

## Safety Workshop

I am your workshop chair

I'm so pleased to announce that the workshop was a success. Jim gave an informative presentation, and answered many questions they kept coming and that was good. We had a little over 40 in attendance and that was good stuff. I want to thank everyone who helped with this endeavor you know who you are, Guys + Gals who came early to set up, helped put out the lunch made coffee and brought food to help with the lunch. Also the greeters at the door and all those who took time to suit up and show up. I want to thank Lori and Ron for suggesting that the topic for the workshop could be Safety in AA and for encouraging me to ask Jim if he would be willing to come down and do this workshop for us. Asking him at the Spring Assembly was a big step for me it took me out of my comfort zone. I probably went overboard in a couple of areas. I'm doing another workshop next year so I am open to constructive criticism. Again thank you all for your help. It was a WE thing and I think WE did our district proud.

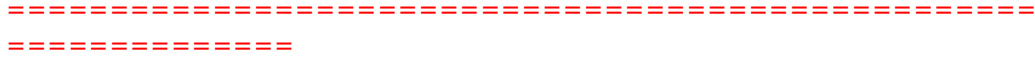
Y./S.

## Comments on the Workshop

I attended the safety in AA and the responsibility statement workshop. I left there with so much more educated on exactly what Safety in AA covers and what the responsibility statement means. I think I need to be more responsible to help the new person coming in to let them know what AA does but also what it doesn't do. Jim did an amazing presentation on this workshop. I hope we have more like this one. The amount of people that came out for this workshop was incredible.

Great workshop, very informative, nice to see our district is making safety an important issue, thanks to everyone who participated.

# Recovery is Not Sexually Transmitted



Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect;  
it is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks,  
It's by taking chances we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut LOVE out of your life  
by saying it's impossible to find.

The quickest way to receive LOVE is to give LOVE,  
the fastest way to lose LOVE is to hold it too tightly  
and the best way to keep LOVE is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams.  
To be without dreams is to be without HOPE;  
To be without HOPE is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only  
WHERE YOU'VE BEEN--but also--WHERE YOU'RE GOING

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