



Knox Knews

District 15 Happenings

District Meeting,
Sunday, April 12.

5-6:30 pm

GSR Roundtable and
committees, 4-5 pm

UU Church, Broadway,
Rockland

Showing it Works!

April Anniversaries

Jane M, 13 yrs

Dave H, 19 yrs

Cindy H, 17 yrs

Prayer & Meditation
Tuesday, April 15

Kathy, 29 yrs

SOS Group
Saturday, April 19

Jane W, 13 yrs

Mountain View
Sunday, April 27

Autonomy Is No Excuse

The Fourth Tradition seems to me to be one of the least understood and most misinterpreted. During discussions of Tradition Four I've heard opinions expressed all the way from "Autonomous means we can do whatever we want" to "AA as a whole is affected by everything a group does--it's just a matter of degree." In my experience, the truth lies somewhere in between these two.

The idea that a group is autonomous has been used to justify breaking other Traditions (such as affiliating with a club or a treatment facility or failing to be self-supporting by accepting gifts of money or services or rent-free meeting places from other organizations), and to justify failure to participate in AA as a whole through the service structure. Disunity has been seen as independence, and self-will has been justified, all in the name of autonomy.

Familiarity with the long form of Tradition Four has helped me understand the principle involved. The long form reads: **"With respect to its own affairs, each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."**

In the long form, the emphasis is on responsibility to the group conscience, and independence from outside influence. No mention is made of separation from other groups or AA as a whole. Instead, empha-

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"Privilege and Honor"

"I am really grateful my group asked me to attend," said new Brown Bag GSR Erik H. at the end of the Area 28 Spring Assembly in Sanford March 28030. It was almost noon on Sunday and Erik said that he "was not disappointed in the slightest. I want to do it again." It was a "privilege and an honor," he concluded.

Erik was one of the more than 40 new GSR's attending the Assembly and they seemed to share his enthusiasm and commitment. At the Friday evening workshop, many of them talked about the difficulty and importance of acting as a trusted servant. As Erik put it, "I was overwhelmed at first then became comfortable and enjoyed it."

Speaking to new GSR's, all of them talked about how much quiet help and support they felt they had and how much they had enjoyed it. "Like a weekend-long meeting" one of them said.

The primary business of the Assembly was to inform our Delegate, Kathi D from District 13, so that she can carry the Area's group conscience to the General Service Conference the end of April. **For a full report from Erik and other GSR's come to the GSR Roundtables the hour before the district meeting. To hear what the Assembly did, ask your GSR or come to the District meeting on April 12.**

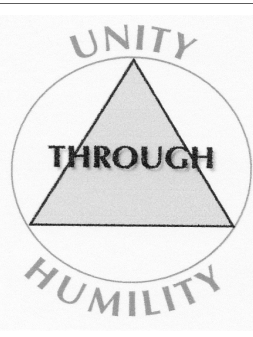
District 15 Spring Fling
Potluck and Dance
Speaker's Meeting
honoring our elders

i AM RESPONSIBLE

May 3, 2008
8-12 pm

food!
dancel

Owls Head Community Center



31st Annual Maine Area ROUND-UP

July 18, 19, 20

Sugarloaf, USA

www.Roundup.Area28.org

Or see a flyer at a meeting near you.

Fourth Concept

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

“It is vital,” [Bill W. said,] “to preserve the traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ in the face of every tendency to whittle it down.”

Finally, there is a spiritual reason for the “Right of Participation.” All of us desire to belong. In A.A., no members are “second class.” The “Right of Participation” therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in “ultimate authority” over another. We perform our service tasks better “when we are sure we belong—when our ‘participation’ assures us we are truly the ‘trusted servants’ described in Tradition Two.”

(12 Concepts pamphlet)

Dist. 15 Contact List

- District Chair, Zach W, 975-6947
- Treasurer, Wendy M., 594-8269, macdougall2@aim.com
- Secretary, Karen S. 701-1040
- Alt. Secretary, Eileen J, 590-6987, binki51@yahoo.com
- DCM I, Judy R, 596-1057
- Bridging the Gap, Mary C. 975-6948
- Coop. w Prof. Comm./Pub. Info, Ben T, 347-9462, BTripp1986@gmail.com
- Corrections, Bob C., 691-8788, dil-lonsk@gmail.com
- Events, Lizzie D. 596-0028
- Grapevine, George C. 236-4598 gchap@gwi.net.
- Guidelines, Leland P, 594-8902, mysticknight1746@hotmail.com
- Literature, Doug D, 734-660-1469, doogs@tds.net
- Love & Service, Peter L, 542-1496, peter@growinme.com
peter@growinme.com
- Meeting List, Della O, 975-9039, dellaorsmond@yahoo.com
- Special Needs, Maureen R, 354-6491, artathlete@gmail.com
- Treatment, John P, 542-8398, jfparkman@gmail.com

Potluck & Promises

The Road to Recovery meeting in Thomaston will be having a potluck on Wednesday, April 9, beginning at 6 pm, followed by a meeting on the Promises from the Big Book.

The 11th Annual Big Book Weekend at

Tanglewood

With Valerie D from Virginia, June 6-8

Look for a flyer or contact Judy M, 596-0260
or Lisa D, 542-2263 or Jo, 975-6731

Knox Country Jail Commitment Schedule

1st Wednesday of the month – Cornerstone to Sobriety; 2nd Wednesday – Warren-Cushing Group (men only); Women’s Group Steps to Serenity had been filling the need, As of March 2008 they will no longer do so; 3rd Wednesday – It’s in the Book Group; 4th (and 5th) Wednesdays – Camden 12 Step Group, with the Brown Bag Group. Please note that there is a need for women to meet the 2nd Wednesday slot. Can your Group step up? Please contact Corrections Chair/Bob C. 691-8788 if you can help

Drive An Inmate to a Meeting

There is a great need for drivers to bring AA members of the Gull Group at Bolduc Correctional Facility to outside meetings. There are 6 meetings a month involved. This need is currently being met by 4 AA volunteer drivers (and once by the staff at BCF!). **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please contact a member of the corrections committee If you are willing to participate. The committee is : Denise H, 845-3232; Maynard H, 845-3232, (cell 919-619-8278); Mary C, 975-6948; Joe S, 542-0074; Robbie H, 592-4601, 785-5221; Bob C, 691-8788

Autonomy No Excuse (Continued from page 1)

sis is placed on concern for the welfare of other groups and of AA as a whole: “On such issues our common welfare is paramount.”

On matters affecting only my group we have unlimited freedom. No other group can say when, where, or how often our groups should meet. Our format, meeting length, room setup, and internal business affairs concern only the members of our group. ...

When the actions of our group affect other groups, however, we are told those groups ought to be consulted. Such situations might include scheduling conflicts, public information efforts, carrying the message into local treatment and correctional facilities, and directing the activities of our local central office. Our group has found that these matters can best be handled in cooperation with other groups through participation in the AA service structure at the district level.

And what about matters affecting AA as a whole? Our group feels strongly that any public anonymity break, solicitation of funds from outside our Fellowship, affiliation with other organizations or institutions--in short, any violation of the Traditions has the potential to affect AA as a whole, and in these matters it is essential to confer with the General Service structure through our area delegate.

We also have a responsibility to share with our delegate, and through him with the entire Fellowship, any bright and shining idea for improvement of Alcoholics Anonymous we may come up with. Do we have a more effective way to carry the message? Have we found the answer to encouraging better communication and participation? Are we aware of a strong need for an additional service committee, pamphlet, video, or other tool for carrying the message? We have not only the opportunity, but the obligation, to share our ideas and information.

Micky H, Springville, Utah, in the South Florida *Intergrouper*, April, 2007

Connecting People Around the World — AFG

Thousands of Al-Anon, Alateen and A.A. members will join hands and hearts, side by side in love and gratitude in Pittsburgh, PA. **July 4–6, 2008**

Information and registration at www.al-anon.org