



Knox news

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

Arthur, 8 yrs

Camden 12-Step
Friday, April 3

Bob F, 41 yrs

As You Like It
Sunday, April 5

Jane M, 14 yrs

Dave H, 21 yrs

Cindy H, 19 yrs

Prayer & Meditation
Tuesday, April 14

Anne, 17 yrs

Brown Bag
Wednesday, April 15

Lisa D, 4 yrs

It's In the Book
Wednesday, April 29
Potluck at 5:30

Jane W, 14 yrs

Mountain View
Sunday, May 3

Rule #62

Autonomy and Laughter

Tradition Four says that each group should be autonomous. This, in my mind, reaffirms the "live and let live" principle. I have the right to be me; you have the right to be you. But there is one condition on me, and that is that if my choice affects someone else (family, coworkers, employer), I'd better consider their rights as well.

The discussion on Tradition Four in the "Twelve and Twelve" contains my all-time favorite story--the one where a gung-ho enthusiastic group, despite a lot of warnings to the contrary, planned a magnificent organization for the total care of the wet drunk coming in. They set up a detox, clubhouse, and services for education and loans. To make this thing run, they needed lots of dollars, and of course, lots of rules--sixty-one of them in fact. But it didn't take long before the whole thing came crashing down. Out of the rubble they came

Tradition 4: With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. 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 A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

up with one more rule--the now-famous **Rule #62** which simply says, "**Don't take yourself too damned seriously.**"

I use Rule #62 a lot, and occasionally I get a gentle reminder that maybe I should be using it more. When I was first elected Saskatchewan area delegate, it seems I had the weight of the entire AA world squarely on my shoulders. I made the mistake of telling my wife Julie how all this heavy responsibility was resting on me. I was heading straight for one of those "poor me" routines when she said, "Oh good!"--big smile on her face. "Damned little to laugh about," I thought to myself, but I asked her anyway what she meant by this "Oh good." She said, "Nothing really. But I just always wondered what it would be like to sleep with God."

As long as I can laugh at my mistakes, I'll probably be okay.

Anonymous
Humboldt, Saskatchewan
Grapevine, April, 1996

Newsletter Editor(s) needed

One person or a team.
Same format or a
change.
Monthly or ...

Group News

New Meeting, Friday evenings, 7-8 pm, Rockland Rec Center. This meeting is exploring a format, finding a name, and becoming a functioning group. ALL are welcome to come and join this new beginning.

Camden Attitude Adjustment Group has moved its meetings to the John Street Methodist Church at 98 John St. (corner of John St. and Simonton Rd) in Camden. They will continue to hold meetings six mornings a week, Monday through Saturday, at 7 am. The group's attendance has outgrown the old space.

Dry Dock Group, Mondays in Thomaston, is now a Beginners meeting, focusing on the first three Steps.

Camden Friday night Speakers: April 3, Bill M; April 10, Pene P; April 17, Bolduc; April 24, Michelle D

Port Clyde Step Meeting, Monday, 7:30 pm, in the church across from the Post Office.

Finding Grace, a women's open discussion meeting, is now meeting at 8:30 am Saturday mornings at the Universalist Church in Rockland.

Area 28 Spring Assembly
Topsham
April 3-5

Will you be represented?

The 12th Annual Big Book Weekend at
Tanglewood
 With Mary T and Missey D.
 from Maine/New Mexico and Massachusetts
June 5-7
 (Meal tickets must ordered by June 1)
 Look for a flyer or contact Deborah A, 215-4445

Concept IV: 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.

- ◆ Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
- ◆ What does "in reasonable proportion" mean?

Step Into the 80's Spring Dance
 Saturday, April 18, Owl's Head Community Center,
 Potluck at 6 pm, meeting at 7, Dance, Dance, Dance at 8

Around the Area

- April 5, **Bookies Meeting**, 9 AM, Governor's Restaurant, Route 1. South Portland
- April 25, **District 3 Love and Service Workshop**, 10 AM to 4 PM, St John's Episcopal Church on French Street, Bangor
- April 25, **District 17 Love and Service Workshop**, 4 - 4:50 PM, District and Home Group Relations
 5 - 5:50 PM "Are we carrying the AA Message" South Windham Community Church, 31 Main St. (Rt. 202)



32nd Maine Area Round-Up July 17-19, 2009

Fellowship with 1000 AA and Al-Anon friends. Speakers from Vermont, California, Maryland, and Maine. Workshops and even dancing to the Big Luv Band. Sugarloaf will begin taking reservations March 1.

www.Roundup.Area28aa.org

A Letter in Memory of Joanne C.

On April 24, 2008 AA lost a strong member, Joanne C. On this first anniversary of her death I wanted to remember her and her life. Jo wrote me a letter and in it stated that she wanted me to continue to tell her stories, be happy and stay sober. Joanne left many friends in the program and also left a strong presence and voice in the halls of AA.

Today when you think of Jo think of her strength and all she did for AA. Remember her for her love of working with other women, telling her truth in meetings, opening her heart and home to newcomers. Jo loved the committees she worked on and felt honored to have sponsored the women she did and taking them through the steps. Jo loved to ride her bike, being a part of her godson's life, the work she did with people with disabilities.

I was blessed to have her in my life for nine years and my children's. I will, as her wife, honor her wishes and continue to tell her stories and to try and be a good member of AA by working with others, being active on committees and speaking up at meetings. For all who knew Jo please tell a newcomer who did not get to meet her a "Jo story". I will remember her kindness, her laugh and her tireless search for a connection with god. She also loved to eat and tell jokes. She often colored her hair funky colors and made lobster rolls at midnight at Tanglewood with all the new people.

While Jo's disease progressed her willingness to go to any length for AA was there. She spoke a week before her death, took clients to a funeral, sponsored several women and climbed the rec stairs to get to meetings. Jo was always there for me and countless others. I miss her, my children miss her but I look up in the stars at night and know she is there. I am grateful to so many who helped Jo and I in the process of her death and provided her with the spiritual support to die surrounded by family and friends with dignity. I see her smiling at us all, looking down from her baseball hat with those big beautiful brown eyes. Be a little kinder to those you love today and also laugh more. She would like that.

Thank you all and I thank god for the fellowship of AA, the solution and for putting Joanne in my life.
 Love, Lisa D

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- Boomerang, Service Opportunity
- CSO Liaison, Service Opportunity
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