



Knox Knews

District 15 Happenings

NEW
Camden Women's meeting, Fridays, 6pm,
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 33 Chestnut St.
in Camden.

Showing it Works! January Anniversaries

Signe G, 15 yrs
Road to Recovery
Wednesday, Jan 3

Bob R, 23 yrs

Liz, 20 yrs

Jib M, 4 yrs

Brown Bag
Saturday, Jan 6

Sully R, 7 yrs

Fred A, 2 yrs

Brown Bag
Saturday, Jan 13

Chris F, 18 yrs

Pen Bay
Sunday, Jan 14

Robbie H, 24 yrs

Camden 12-Step
Monday, Jan 15

Paul D, 13 yrs

Casey H, 4 yrs

Cornerstone
Thursday, Jan 25

George C, 2 yrs

Camden 12-Step
Saturday, Jan. 27

Rusty, 25 yrs

Sun. Night Discussion
Sunday, January 28

Heard at meetings:

On anonymity: "I have an alibi, but I can't tell you who they are."

"For alcoholics, resentments are better than Christmas."

District Inventory

Who are we? How are we doing? What's the next right thing? These are basic inventory questions at an individual or group level and they apply at all levels of AA—periodic check-ups on progress in imperfection.

You are invited to the District 15 inventory, Sunday, January 14, at the First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland. A brief District meeting will begin at 3 pm followed by the inventory sessions, facilitated by Spencer R, Area chair. Spencer thinks of this as a "guided conversation" addressing the issues and questions that

most concern the members of the district. He asks, "What are the number one issues or problems in the district?"

The issues and questions discussed will come from the group. In order to help members think about these issues ahead of time, we include some possible organizing questions.

The pamphlet, the AA Group, includes some inventory questions "compiled from AA experience." Adapted to district use, some of these are:

- What is the basic purpose of District 15?
- What more can the district do to fulfill this purpose?
- Is the district attracting broad participation from a good cross-section of our members?

New Speaker's Meeting

Beginning Saturday, January 13, the SOS Group in Rockland will hold a speaker's meeting the second Saturday of each month. The plan is to bring in speakers from other districts in other parts of the state to share their experience, strength and hope with us.

"It's easy for us to become isolated, just like we were when we were active alcoholics," one member commented. "This is a way to bring us back into communication with a wider AA community beyond the local district."

Meetings are held at St. Peter's Church in Rockland, at 7 pm Saturday nights.

(Continued on page 2)

Inventory (continued from page 1)

- Do new participants in District service stick with us or does turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we do?

Bob C, district chair, suggests that we might focus on two major questions:

- How effective are we in the work we do?
- How effective are we in the work we are **supposed** to be doing? And what is that?

From his participation in many district inventories, Spencer notes the following questions are often asked, often important and often helpful:

- Are we acting in a way to attract members to participate in district service?
- Are we communicating effectively to groups in the district?
- Are we leading by example, for instance, in having our spouses participate at district?
- Are we following the Seventh Tradition?
- At the district level, what is our connection ("cooperation not affiliation") with other 12-Step programs and to non-AA recovery activities (e.g. Alanon, NA, NEFOTS, Tanglewood, MAAR, etc.)? (This could become especially important in relation to newsletter content. pl)

Thanks to all those who helped make the Christmas alacathon a success: all those who donated food to the event and to Zach, Janet, and Robbie who each coordinated and facilitated a portion of the day.

Carrying the message**School Workshops**

Both Union Elementary School and Vinalhaven High School contacted AA to request that we bring a workshop to them for Alcohol Awareness Day in early November. The Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee met this commitment with enthusiasm to bring this workshop into the schools, **to let the community know what we are, and what we are not.**

All the kids took a great interest in the workshop and had many pertinent questions. We left pamphlets and literature for the guidance counselors to dispense as they feel the need. The schools both were very grateful and hope to call on us again in the future.

AA members who participated were Kevin J, Sharon S, Billy A, Janet H, Rod P, Robbie M, and Adrian C.

Yours in Service, Kevin J, CPC Chair

Public Information**Spreading the word about AA**

As Bill W. suggested, **anonymity does not mean secrecy.** "Most groups realize that alcoholics cannot come to AA for help unless they know [what we are, what we are not, and] where we are. Using many suggested methods, ranging from personal contact to public service announcements on radio and TV, groups and their members reach out, working within the framework of Tradition Eleven. Sometimes a small sign saying "AA Meeting Tonight" outside the meeting-place door points the way. And from AA's earliest days, radio announcements and small newspapers announcements of AA meetings have been used to attract newcomers." ("The AA Group" pamphlet)

Some have even suggested that the Eleventh Tradition **mandates** or requires **not** maintaining personal anonymity at levels other than press, radio, and film, so that AA can attract the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

Cooperation with the Professional Community focuses on "cooperation but not affiliation" with professionals in the community—educators, physicians, the clergy, court officials and other who are often in contact with active alcoholics." Primarily this involves helping them understand what AA is and when and how to help active alcoholics get involved in AA. In some areas, CPC is combined with Public Information. ("The AA Group" pamphlet)

District 15 needs members who are willing to participate in public information work. Please contact your GSR or a district officer for more information about how to get involved in this vital work.