



# Knox Knews

*District 15 Happenings*

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

**Showing it Works!**

## June Anniversaries

**Debbie W, 13 yrs**

Brown Bag  
Saturday, June 9

**Leona, 3 yrs**

Camden 12-Step  
Wednesday, June 13

**John P, 12 yrs**

Camden 12-Step  
Monday, June 25

**Mary C, 5 yrs**

**Zach W, 5 yrs**

Cornerstone  
Thursday, June 28

## Reaching Out With Both Hands

Bobby E. graced mid-coast AA for about 15 years, "making twelve-step calls, welcoming newcomers to her home, gathering people together in her blue station wagon for meetings, keeping commitments at the jail, bringing coffee to early morning meetings, and starting new meetings."

Last month, several AAs suggested some stories about Bobby for the newsletter, and I agreed, and also sent out a call for more Bobby E. stories. I never knew her but as I listened, I realized that these were not stories about Bobby E., they are stories about AA—stories about AA experiences. Stories that challenge all of us as we try to walk the walk.

So this is not an "in memoriam" issue about Bobby E. It is about AA experience, strength and hope. I believe that's the way Bobby E. would have liked it. As Bob carefully explained at great length to me one night, **her message was "Keep it Simple."** pl

### She Got Me Into the Solution

When we planned to move to Maine, I telephoned the hot line and was given Ellen B's number. When we arrived, I phoned immediately. "There is a wonderful meeting at 7:00 am every morning. It's at Bobby E's house," she said.

When I arrived just before seven the following morning I was greeted by a welcoming hug and beautiful smile. "Hi dear, come right in." It was unreal.

We went upstairs and there was a crackling fire. It was a cold, damp day in early April and the coffee was brewing. What a wonderful morning this is, I thought. There were seven of us at the table. "Please help yourself to coffee, dears." When everyone was settled, our meeting began in the usual manner. I believe it was Bobby who read How It Works that morning.

For me it was a brand new beginning, the start of a spiritual journey. It was Bobby who showed me the way, with generosity, exuberance and honesty with herself. She shared her program. I believe she walked the walk. Sometimes she'd ask, "Am I walking the walk or just talking the talk?" Sometimes I had a lump in my chest because I had the same question. Bobby always found the way to service. She got me into the solution. Ann J.

## The Most Important Job in AA

The Group's General Service Representative (GSR) may have the most important job in AA. Without the GSR, the voice of the individual AA member, and the conscience of the local group, never get heard or reflected in AA as a whole. This effects other groups and AA as a whole. Without the GSR, the individual member and group take from AA without giving back—they are not self-supporting through their own contributions.

The GSR participates in monthly District meetings. In fact, the District is DEFINED as the GSR's from within district 15's geographic area. ALL other positions in AA are elected by the GSR's, directly or indirectly, all the way up to the Trustees. This means that the GSR's elected committee chair, other officers, and other committee chairs at the District and Area level. It also means that District does what the groups tell it to do—no more, no less.

The GSR participates in Area Assemblies twice a year, as the most important and numerous voting members of the Area. At Area Assemblies, GSR's vote on Area activities and officers, including our Delegate to the national AA. In addition, the GSR's speak and vote to instruct our delegate on issues facing AA as a whole. In this way, GSR's pass on their local groups conscience DIRECTLY. If they are not there, the individual member, and the individual group, is not heard.

### Newsletter Guidelines Adopted

The newsletter guidelines as printed in last month's KnoxKnews were unanimously adopted at the District 15 meeting on May 13. This month there will be discussion of structure: who decides on the editor and to whom she or he is responsible.

**The next District meeting is June 10, 5 pm, at the Universalist church on Broadway in Rockland.**

## Area Roundup, July 20-23

Sugarloaf USA

Make housing reservations early. Look for a flyer at your meetings or contact Lisa L, 205-0486, [llowry@maine.rr.com](mailto:llowry@maine.rr.com)

## Camp AFG, August 24-26

Maine Area's annual Al-Anon convention with AA participation  
Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop, ME

Details soon at [www.campafg.com](http://www.campafg.com)

## Beginning in Service, August 1995

I was out of Acadia about three weeks going to 3 meetings a day and on Thursday, four!

At one meeting I was asked by 4 guys to go on a commitment to Acadia. I went on my first service call. When we got there the driver said he wondered what door to go in--I piped up (having said nothing on the entire trip up) that I knew where to go. They all looked at me --asked how I knew--and when they found out I had just been released from there 3 weeks prior was told "don't you open your g.d. mouth tonight". I was crushed.

The next morning at the 7AM meeting I began to whine about my experience. This white haired beautiful, stately woman interrupts my whining and says; " Drop the rock, John". I had no idea what that meant but shut up immediately. After the meeting she came up to me and said to be ready at the Episcopal church at 6pm that night, she was going to take me to Jail.

At 6 on the dot, she drove up in an old diesel Mercedes...just her in the car. I went to open the passenger side and she yells--"No. you in the back!". Another defeat, I thought. But shut up and jumped into the backseat. We picked up another lady and off we went to the jail.

## A Power of Example

Bobby E. was one Great Dame. A gracious Camden mostest hostess, she reigned over many of Mid-Coast Maine's AA meetings - not as a dictator or Big Book thumper - but as a power of example, ( often with Hal, of Damariscotta at her side). She was an old timer , as we say today, but by NO means was she old in spirit! Bobby was there for all of us 'on the program' (as she used to say) no matter who, no matter where from, no matter what. I first met Bobby at the very small Thursday morning Into Action meeting at the Congo church in Rockland. Mostly ladies turned up and like as not they bore knitting materials and/or needlepoint. ( Bobby excelled at the latter.) It was nicknamed the Stitch-and-Bitch group and finally ran out of steam somewhere along the way...after Bobby had moved back to California to be near her son. I am so indebted to Bobby's welcoming presence, both at meetings and at her lovely home on Penobscot Bay. She was a first rate cook and to have one of her famous AA birthday cakes at your anniversary was to die and go to heaven. (How did she maintain her slim figure, one wondered?) We MISS you, dear Bobby E.! Jane W.

When we arrived, she kindly said, "Now John, when I ask you, I want you to read How It Works, then sit back and listen, listen, listen. And watch what we do"

I did exactly as she said...and on the way home I asked her if I could go with her again...she replied, "It is never too early in sobriety to serve other alcoholics, you may only have 24 hours, but the guy sitting next to you may have only 24 minutes and wondering 'how did you do that?'. She then proceeded to take me not only to jail 2 or 3 times per month, but then to the PARC Unit, other speaking commitments, her home, and anywhere she could to show me how Service in A.A. works.

It has been the number one purpose for my life since, kept me sober, and I owe it all to how my HP used this little white haired, stately woman named Bobby E. I love her and miss her. John P.

## One My First Sponsors

Bobby E. was one of my first sponsors, but only for a very short time .

She was thinking about the move to Cal. but was gracious enough to spend time with me . Her quiet, smiling way was such a draw, and that ever-present straw hat—a statement. She had a warm and genuine demeanor, sincere, yet a great sense of humor with which to make a point.

She cared for everyone she came in contact with, shared her experience, strength and hope, and worked the program. I miss her. Signe J.

## An Exciting Meeting

Bobby E, always thinking up fun get-togethers with AA members, once invited me to have a little game of golf on Islesboro in late fall after the course was closed. This was probably late October, 1989. We stood on the ferry deck, hanging on to our rolling golf carts, hoping they wouldn't fly overboard since it was rough and windy. Another AA friend met us at the ferry and we went with her directly to the course, wondering if we could fight the gale with our poor golf balls. After nine holes we went to her friend's house for some wonderful hot soup. I shall never forget that exciting AA meeting! Bird B

Please send in more stories connected to Bobby E or someone else. All experiences welcome!

## Dist. 15 Contact List

- District Chair, Bob C., 691-8788, [bobbycleav@verizon.net](mailto:bobbycleav@verizon.net)
- Treasurer, Wendy M., 594-8269, [wendymacdougall@adelphia.net](mailto:wendymacdougall@adelphia.net)
- DCM I, **Service Opportunity**
- DCM II, Zach, 975-6947
- DCM III, Rich B, 594-2372, [dbratt61@msn.com](mailto:dbratt61@msn.com)
- Corrections, Robbie H., 785-5221, [hinch@mail.com](mailto:hinch@mail.com)
- CPC, Kevin J., 594-6373, [mainelysoba@yahoo.com](mailto:mainelysoba@yahoo.com)
- Bridging the Gap, Casey H, 691-8494, [c.hallowell@hotmail.com](mailto:c.hallowell@hotmail.com)
- Treatment, Travis M. 594-8269
- Meeting List, John K., 354-3614

Chris F, Area Registrar, 372-6273, [lcf@midcoast.com](mailto:lcf@midcoast.com)

For a list of Area officers and committee chairs, go to [www.area28.aamaine.org](http://www.area28.aamaine.org)