



# Knox news

District 15 Happenings

## District Meeting

Sunday, March 8

5-6:30 pm

GSR Roundtable and  
committees, 4-5 pm

UU Church, Broadway,  
Rockland

## Showing it Works! March Anniversaries

**Richard W, 11 yrs**

As You Like it group  
Sunday, March 8

**Brian P, 16 yrs**

**Brian G, 18 yrs**

It's In the Book  
Wednesday, March 25  
Potluck at 5:30

## Newsletter Editor(s) needed

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

## Raising Our Voices, Making Them Heard

ONCE UPON A TIME, not so long ago, an AA member in Maine had a question: "What is the difference between a meeting and a group?" He took the question to his home group and they discussed it and thought the answer should be in the AA Group pamphlet. The GSR from the group took the question and suggestion to the District meeting. The GSRs at the district agreed and took it to the Area Assembly. The Area Delegate took it to the General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. The voice of that AA member was heard.

The main difference between meetings and groups is that A.A. groups generally continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hours, ready to provide Twelfth Step help when needed.  
*The AA Group*

THEN there was a lot of discussion about the question and the drafted answer for the AA Group pamphlet was sent BACK to the groups so that **every single AA member had a chance to respond**. Those responses were passed by the GSR's to the Area Assembly to the Delegate and to New York. Now, on pages 10-11 of the AA Group pamphlet, there is an answer to the question. All because of the voice of that AA member.

So now we are preparing for another Area Assembly, in Topsham on April 3-5. GSRs from individual groups will be considering and voting on agenda items for the General Service Conference in New York as well as some Area business items. The items were discussed at the pre-conference forum in Bangor on March first and will again be discussed at the district meeting on March 8. GSR's will then return to their groups and lead group discussions of the items so that each individual member has a chance to respond. The GSRs will then go to the Area Assembly to further discuss and vote on the agenda items.

**Area 28 Spring Assembly  
Topsham  
April 3-5**

All this so that YOU can have a voice. Will you take the opportunity?

## Group News

**New Meeting, Friday evenings, 7-8 pm, Rockland Rec Center.** Beginning February 6, this meeting will begin 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:** March 6, Damon; March 13, Judy R; March 20, Bolduc; March 27, Lynn T; April 3, Bill M.

**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.

## Weather or not?

## What's Our Number One Priority?

Recently I experienced something I hadn't in the while I've been attending meetings in the Midcoast area. In one month's time, there were three meeting cancellations due to snow. What bothers me is that there seemed to be a group conscious decision in each of these cancellations to do so. What I heard was that there was a concern for safety in going out in to a meeting during inclement weather. That's good for the group members but didn't really help the rest of us who drove all the way to the meeting place to find it closed.

One of the things I was asked early in my journey towards sobriety was if I was willing to go to any length to get sober. It seems to be a common question we ask people who come in to the program seeking

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Northeast Fellowship of the Spirit (NEFOTS)

March 6-8,

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland

This is the 10th annual Northeast Fellowship of the Spirit Conference to be held in Maine. This conference is committed to carrying the message of Recovery from alcoholism through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in the Big Book and is open to all who seek recovery. Panels of AA and Al-Anon members discuss each of the 12 Steps and there will be national AA and Al-Anon speakers.

Hotel reservations are always scarce and you are encouraged to make reservations early.

See flyers at your meeting or visit [www.NEFOTS.org](http://www.NEFOTS.org).

## Tradition Three

### The short form isn't enough.

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?



## 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](http://www.Roundup.Area28aa.org)

## Dist. 15 Contact List

- District Chair, Zach W, 975-6947
- Treasurer, Wendy M., 594-8269, [macdougall2@aim.com](mailto:macdougall2@aim.com)
- Alt. Treasurer, Service Opportunity
- Secretary, Karen S. 701-1040
- Alt. Secretary, Eileen J, 590-6987, [binki51@yahoo.com](mailto:binki51@yahoo.com)
- DCM I, Judy R, 596-1057
- Archives, Service Opportunity
- Boomerang, Service Opportunity
- CSO Liaison, Service Opportunity
- Bridging the Gap, Mary C. 975-6948
- Corrections, Bob C., 691-8788, [dil-lonsk@gmail.com](mailto:dil-lonsk@gmail.com)
- Events, Lisa D, 594-7040
- Grapevine, George C. 236-4598 [gchap@gwi.net](mailto:gchap@gwi.net)
- Guidelines, Leland P, 594-8902, [mysticknight1746@hotmail.com](mailto:mysticknight1746@hotmail.com)
- Hotline, Service Opportunity
- Literature, Doug M, 734-660-1469, [doogs@tds.net](mailto:doogs@tds.net)
- Love & Service, Peter L, 542-1496, [peter@growinme.com](mailto:peter@growinme.com)
- Meeting List, Debbie M, [dmurray51@roadrunner.com](mailto:dmurray51@roadrunner.com)
- Special Needs, Maureen R, 354-6491, [artathlete@gmail.com](mailto:artathlete@gmail.com)
- Treatment, John P, 542-8398, [jfarkman@gmail.com](mailto:jfarkman@gmail.com)

## Cancellations (Continued from page 1)

release from their suffering. And when we ask someone to make a commitment to sobriety, we tell them they have to make it the number one priority. So I would think that people who make a commitment to open a meeting are doing so to help themselves stay sober by ensuring that the hand of AA is there for when the sick and suffering individual is looking for a different way. It was sad that at one of the unopened meetings there was a newcomer with a meeting list in hand wondering if there was a meeting there. I told him there used to be.

If we can make an exception to our commitment to reach out, what message does that convey to the newcomer? Don't drink.....except? Otherwise, make sure the meeting list states that there will be a meeting when stated except when it snows. That way EVERYONE can stay home.

Mark Z.

What do you think? Comments and responses welcome.