



# Knox news

District 15 Happenings

## District Meeting

Sunday, May 10

5-6:30 pm

GSR Roundtable and  
committees, 4-5 pm

UU Church, Broadway,  
Rockland

## Showing it Works! May Anniversaries

### Hugh, 20 yrs

As You Like It,  
Sunday, May 3

### Phil M, 30 yrs

### Jack W, 16 yrs

### Rick D, 5 yrs

Camden 12-Step  
Friday, May 9

### Sandy L, 33 yrs

Attitude Adjustment  
Saturday, May 16

### Susan D, 28 yrs

Saving Grace  
Saturday, May 23

### Don C, 8 yrs

Brown Bag  
Thursday, May 28

### Clyson P, 24 yrs

### Judy K, 39 yrs

### Paul A, 25 yrs

Road to Recovery  
Wednesday, May 27

### Bill M, 16 yrs

Attitude Adjustment  
Saturday, May 30

## Group News

The **Corrections Committee** will begin planning the October Freedom From Bondage Conference at its committee meeting before the District meeting on May 10. Call 691-8788 for details

**Camden Saturday night meeting** has changed its format to a Step meeting. It will use both the Big Book and the 12 & 12 to study the Steps.

**Camden Friday night Speakers:** May 1, Alan B; May 8, Debbie W; May 15, Bill G; May 22, Bolduc; May 29, Steve C.

**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.

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

## The Home Group, a Spiritual Entity

"Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation" (from Tradition Three, Long Form).

"AA's essential group work is done by alcoholics who are themselves recovering in the fellowship, and each of us is entitled to do our AA job in the way we think best within the spirit of the Traditions. This means that we function as a democracy, with all plans for group action approved by the majority voice. No single individual is appointed to act for the group or for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

"Each group is as unique as a thumbprint, and approaches to carrying the message of sobriety vary not just from group to group but from region to region. Acting autonomously, each group charts its own course. The better informed the members, the stronger and more cohesive the group -- and the greater the assurance that when a newcomer reaches out for help, the hand of AA always will be there.

"Most of us cannot recover unless there is a group. As Bill said, 'Realization dawns on each member that he is but a small part of a great whole. ... He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not'" ("The AA Group ... Where It All Begins," p. 12).

References to the AA group as a spiritual entity date at least to the 1940s (see Bill W's Grapevine article, "Safe Use of Money," October 1946). In 1950, the principle was accepted throughout the Fellowship with the approval of the Twelve Traditions. Tradition Two reads: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority -- a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

An essential part of this spiritual entity is the minority voice. The "right of appeal" in Concept Five ensures the voice of the minority and asserts that idea that ALL sides have something of value and that no opinion is a "loser." That's the **Fifth Concept: Throughout**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish

For the past three years, I have been privileged and honored to be the editor of this newsletter. Now a new news team will take over.

It's been a wonderful experience and I have learned more than I could ever recount: It has helped teach me the humility of the reporter—observing and listening rather than controlling. It has prompted me to examine my own prejudices and resentments about some groups and individuals who, even when I don't like them or approve of them, are valuable and precious parts of this fellowship. It has taught me a lot about the principles of unity and primary purpose.

Being your editor has brought the concepts and traditions of this Fellowship alive for me. Each month, I have studied and read and learned. But more than that, it has helped me be a better and fuller member of this Fellowship as I began to see how those concepts and traditions are essential parts of my life, both inside and outside these rooms.

For all this, I thank you.

Peter L.

## Corrections barbeque on May 30<sup>th</sup>

An opportunity to get together and talk with other volunteers regarding corrections in District 15. And eat. BYO barbeque, 6 PM Clam Cove. 691-8788 for details

May 17, Post Conference Forum and Maine Area 28 Committee Meeting. District 21 Bucksport. Forum at 9 am, committee meetings immediately following.

District 3 Round-Up

## The Magic of Recovery

Come experience the Magic of Recovery with us on the lake at Camp Roosevelt in Eddington  
An inexpensive and exciting recovery weekend  
May 22-24

Go to events at [www.aaMaine.org](http://www.aaMaine.org) for a flyer and complete details

### Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

- ◆ Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
- ◆ Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- ◆ Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
- ◆ Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- ◆ Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
- ◆ Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

The 12th Annual Big Book Weekend at  
**Tanglewood**  
With Mary T and Missey D.  
from Maine/New Mexico and Massachusetts  
June 5-7

### Concept Five: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- ◆ Do I encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal", to be heard at my home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- ◆ What does my group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- ◆ Has my group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- ◆ Does my group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?



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

### Spiritual Entity (Continued from page 1)

our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

"We recognize that minorities frequently are right," notes our AA secret service manual. "Even when they are partly or wholly in error they still perform valuable service when ... they compel a though-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority." (p 22)

The Informed Group Conscience is the highest authority in AA: "To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind.

"On sensitive issues, the group works slowly— discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a 'yes' or 'no' count—precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term 'informed group conscience' implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes."

(based in part on material at the e-aa group site, [http://www.e-aa.org/group\\_guidelines.php](http://www.e-aa.org/group_guidelines.php), Peter L.)

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