



Knox Knews

District 15 Happenings

Speakers for Camden 12 Step Friday Meetings

Sept 7, Maynard H

Sept 14, Denise H

Sept 21, Bolduc

Sept 28, TBA

Showing it Works! September Anniversaries

Lily, 6 yrs

Dennis, 13 yrs

Camden 12-Step
Monday, Sept 3

Karen, 20 yrs

Prayer and Meditation
Tuesday, Sept 4

Jacqueline, 23 yrs

Brown Bag
Tuesday, Sept 11

Laura, 1 Yr

Brown Bag
Wednesday, Sept 12

Edna, 37 yrs

Warren
Tuesday, Sept 25

Incredibly Sad

By Judy R.

Recently, I received a call for help. It was Kelly, the nurse at the PARC Unit at Pen Bay hospital. It was 7:05 on a Wednesday evening. She said, "I have four patients here waiting for an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and there is no one here.

I felt incredibly sad at the missed opportunity.

I wondered if they would find their way into a meeting on their own. I knew they had books and meeting lists. But I remembered how many times I had seen the books, literature and meeting lists and never paid attention.

I wondered who had promised to be at the PARC Unit that night but wasn't there. It really didn't matter—the opportunity was gone.

I remembered how many promises I had made and failed to keep.

A lot of meetings have been missed. Since I have become interim Treatment Chair, I have received the calendar for PARC Unit commitments. In the last two months, 40% of the commitments have been missed.

Alcoholics who have found the key to sobriety have the obligation as members of AA to share this message with those who are still suffering. Tradition Five states that the AA group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

At the District meeting this month, with help from the GSR from your group, the PARC Unit commitment schedule will be revised and streamlined. I very much hope that your group GSR or representative can be there to help with this important task.

Step Nine

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition Nine

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept Nine

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Responsibility Starts with an Honest Inventory

There will be a Love and Service workshop September 23 on "Responsibility Begins With an Honest Inventory" in Raymond, with participants and speakers from District 17 and around the state. The panel will discuss the topic from 10 to 12:30, lunch will be served from 12:30 to 1:15, then there will be questions and answers until 3:00 pm. The event will be held at the Center Stage Dance Studio, 17 Main St, in Raymond. Flyer and map are available at www.aamaine.org or call 627-3118. **Sponsors bring your sponsees.**

There will be a **GSR Roundtable discussion and training** at 4 pm Sunday, September 9. The District meeting begins at 5 pm. The Roundtable and District meeting are at the Rockland Universalist Church on Broadway. ALL AA's are invited to attend the district meeting, whether or not you are a GSR.

September 9 - Maine Area 28 Committee Meeting at the Muskie Center in Waterville. Committees meet at 9 AM, Area meeting begins at 10 AM. District officers and committee chairs are expected to attend. GSR's are very welcome. The main focus of this month's meeting will be to finalize the agenda for the Fall Assembly in October.

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Rotation

An important
AA principle
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Rotation

October is election time in area 28, District 15, and most Groups, with new trusted servants beginning their positions in January.

Rotation is an important principle in AA. Rotation means that positions are passed along and trusted servants change—every two years in our area and district and in most of our groups.

Rotation gives us all an opportunity to contribute to the organization and contribute to ensuring that the hand of AA is always there for the still sick and suffering.

Rotation ensures that we do not create the entrenched leadership that can stifle a group or organization. Perhaps we have all experienced the dominant clique that makes it hard to feel welcome in a group or organization.

Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed.

To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities."

Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

The AA Group, p 26

The primary business of the **Area 28 Fall Assembly**—October 19-21 in Belfast—will be the elections of officers and area delegate for the next two years. Positions to be filled, and alternates for each, are Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Delegate, and Registrar (no alternate Registrar). In addition, there will be several revisions of the guidelines to be voted on. The final agenda will be set at the Area Committee meeting on September 9. More information, including a lodging list, will be available at the District meeting.

District elections will be held at the October meeting, October 14. Positions needing to be filled at the District level are **Officers**: Chair, Three District Committee Members (DCM), Secretary and alternate secretary, Treasurer and alternate treasurer. **Committee Chairs**: Archives, Boomerang, Bridging the Gap, Central Service Office Liaison, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Events, Grapevine, Guidelines, Hotline, Literature, Love and Service, Meeting List, Public Information, Special Needs, and Treatment.

Which Responsibilities are you going to Step up to?

Newsletter Editor Needed

NO technical computer expertise needed. The Love and Service committee is looking for someone to take editorial control of what is in the Newsletter and how it looks. We have volunteers to handle production.

Events Around the Area

September 7-8 District 4 Round-up - Centre Diocésain - 60 rue Bouchard, Edmundston N.B Canada - FMI district4roundup@aamaine.org

September 8, 9 Serenity on the Saco Canoe and camp on the Saco River Flyer at aaMaine.org.

September 15 Rumford/Mexico AA Gr 50th Anniversary 1 PM Mexico Rec Park Food Fun and more 6 PM meeting 7:30 Dance More info call Linda Z 364-2506

September 20 Portland Acceptance Group 29th Anniversary Ice Cream Social, 7 PM Meeting, 8 PM Ice Cream Social, Clark Methodist Church, Corner of Forest Ave and Pleasant Aves

*Each group needs the least possible organization. **Rotating leadership is usually the best... All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in AA are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.***

*Bill W.
Language of the Heart, p23*

Dist. 15 Contact List

- District Chair, Bob C., 691-8788, bobbycleav@verizon.net
- Treasurer, Wendy M., 594-8269, wendymacdougall@adelphia.net
- DCM I, **Service Opportunity**
- DCM II, Zach, 975-6947
- DCM III, Rich B, 594-2372, dbratt61@msn.com
- Corrections, Robbie H., 785-5221, hinch@mail.com
- Love & Service, Peter L, 542-1496, peter@growinme.com
- CPC, Kevin J., 594-6373, mainelysoba@yahoo.com
- Bridging the Gap, Casey H, 691-8494, c.hallowell@hotmail.com
- Treatment, Judy R, 596-1057
- Meeting List, John K, 354-3614

Chris F, Area Registrar, 372-6273, lcf@midcoast.com

For a list of Area officers and committee chairs, go to www.area28.aamaine.org