



ALKI-LINE



TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE

The Area 11 A.A. Newsletter Vol. 30 No. 2 April 2021 - May 2021

Freedom from Bondage: Corrections Correspondence

I grew up in the 1980's in the impoverished city of Watts in Los Angeles County, California. My life began at Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Compton, also known as "Killer King." Many people didn't survive a stay at the hospital as an outcome of gang shootings and drug overdoses. Alcohol crippled my community with a voracious and insatiable appetite. There were at least five different liquor stores in a five-minute walk from my house. I didn't know at the time that single-parent African American women suffered the highest rates of abuse. My mother was one of those statistics and continued the abuse on me. Child Protective Services removed me from her custody at about age five. She burned the back of my right hand, leaving a large scar that will last a lifetime. Children can be cruel. In elementary school, some of my peers called me Freddy Krueger, a character from the movie "A Nightmare on Elm Street". I guess children have an inherited and/or natural risk of vulnerability. There was scornful laughter in the light, and tears in the dark.

My father was in prison for the first eleven years of my life. I lived with various family members who were not prepared to raise a child that had survived physical and sexual abuse. I blamed my parents, my family, and life in general for my pain. I had pent up anger, fear, hurt, and sadness. These feelings played a major role in fueling the furtherance of negative thinking, negative feelings, and negative behavior. At times life was beautiful. However, the intensity of the negativity overshadowed the positivity. I turned to alcohol at the age of twelve and didn't look back! Power and control were achieved in alcohol; not love, not decency in relationships. I lived in the moment. Time itself became misinterpreted and the very fabric of life became capricious. I violated the sanctity of others and of myself. Alcohol became my very best friend. We spent mornings, afternoons, and nights together. I was out of control and eventually sentenced to thirty years and four months. I hit rock bottom! I was to spend all of my twenties, thirties, and more than half of my forties in prison. In November 2007, I

decided to make a bath of "Pruno", inmate-manufactured wine. My cell was searched by two officers and they made it look like the cell was hit by a hurricane. I was infuriated, not at the mess they made, but because they took my wine. I ran down the stairs and argued with the officers. They said, "We didn't write you up but now we will!" I was given four additional months after being found guilty of the write-up.

Finally, I asked myself "What's important in your life?" I thought of my Higher Power, my children, and my freedom. I realized that I was the problem. I opened my heart and sought help. I lived in a level-four maximum security prison where asking for help was foreign to me. One day, I saw the dope dealers and addicts of the prison going to the kitchen. I later learned they were going to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. My first meeting was in June 2008 and that was when I learned the first Step: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol that our lives had become unmanageable. There were others like me and I was not alone. I am not saying that A.A. got my life back because I had not lived life yet. A.A. helped show me how to live. Application of its principles has proven an enduring path in security, empathy, and support. A.A.'s Correction Correspondence Program aids in this. I have been a part of it for several years. When I receive mail back from my brother in A.A., it is more than just a letter. It is a familiar voice, a voice that I haven't actually heard. A person that I have never officially met who brings me assurance and promise. Many of us in here have never known healthy relationships. The Corrections Correspondence Program narrows the gap between hope and freedom. Consequently, my ties to my children, parents, and other family members, and to my Higher Power have been enriched. Now, at the age of forty and after twenty years of incarceration, I am in a level-two lower security prison. I know now that people do care and that building healthy relationships is imperative for us all.

— *Amando S.*

For information and resources on Corrections Committees [click here.](#)

To be part of Corrections Correspondence Service [click here](#)



Liberación de las ataduras: Correspondencia a las Correccionales

Yo crecí en los años de 1980 en la ciudad empobrecida de Watts en el condado de Los Ángeles, California. Mi vida comenzó en el Hospital Martin Luther King Jr. en Compton, también conocido como “Killer King.” Muchas personas no sobrevivían una estancia en el hospital como resultado de troteos de pandillas y sobredosis de drogas. El alcohol lisiaba a mi comunidad con un apetito voraz e insaciable. Había al menos cinco licorerías a una distancia de cinco minutos caminando desde mi casa. No sabía en aquel entonces que las madres solteras afroamericanas sufrían el mayor índice de abuso. Mi mamá formaba parte de esa estadística y continuó el abuso conmigo. El departamento de Servicio de Protección a Menores me removió de su custodia cuando tenía alrededor de cinco años. Ella me quemó la parte trasera de mi mano derecha, dejando una gran cicatriz que durará toda una vida. Los niños pueden ser crueles. En la escuela primaria, algunos de mis compañeros me llamaban Freddy Krueger, un personaje de la película de horror “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” Supongo que los niños tienen un riesgo de vulnerabilidad heredado y/o natural. Había una risa desdeñosa en la luz y lágrimas en la oscuridad.

Mi papá estuvo en la prisión durante los primeros once años de mi vida. Yo viví con varios miembros de la familia que no estaban preparados para criar a un niño que había sobrevivido abuso físico y sexual. Yo culpé a mis padres, mi familia y a la vida en general por mi dolor. Tenía ira, temor, dolor y tristeza reprimida. Estos sentimientos jugaron un gran papel en fomentar más los pensamientos negativos, los sentimientos negativos, y el comportamiento negativo. A veces la vida era hermosa. Sin embargo, la intensidad de la negatividad ensombreció la positividad. ¡Me convertí en alcohólico a la edad de doce años y no volteé a ver hacia atrás! El poder y el control los lograba en el alcohol; no el amor, no la decencia en las relaciones. Vivía en el momento. El tiempo en sí se fue malinterpretando y la misma existencia se volvió caprichosa. Violé la santidad de otros y la mía propia. El alcohol se convirtió en mi mejor amigo. Pasamos juntos las mañanas, tardes y noches. Estaba fuera de control y eventualmente fui sentenciado por treinta años y cuatro meses. ¡Toqué fondo! Debía pasar todos mis veinte, treinta y más de la mitad de mis cuarenta años en la prisión. En noviembre del 2007, decidí hacer un baño de “Pruno,” un vino fabricado por los presos. Mi celda fue registrada por dos oficiales y la hicieron lucir como si un huracán hubiese pasado. Me enfurecí, no por el desorden que ellos hicieron, pero porque se llevaron mi vino. Corrí bajando las escaleras y alegué con los oficiales. Ellos dijeron, “¡No te habíamos reportado pero ahora lo haremos!” Me

dieron cuatro meses adicionales después de haber sido encontrado culpable de la queja.

Finalmente, me pregunté a mí mismo, “¿Qué es importante en tu vida?” Pensé en mi Poder Superior, mis hijos y mi libertad. Me di cuenta de que yo era el problema. Abrí mi corazón y busqué ayuda. Viví en una prisión de máxima seguridad de cuarto nivel en donde pedir ayuda era algo ajeno para mí. Un día, vi a los vendedores de drogas y adictos de la prisión yendo a la cocina. Después me enteré de que ellos iban a una reunión de Alcohólicos Anónimos. Mi primera reunión fue en junio del 2008 y entonces fue cuando aprendí el primer Paso: *Admitimos que éramos impotentes ante el alcohol, que nuestras vidas se habían vuelto ingobernables.* Habían otros como yo y no estaba solo. No estoy diciendo que A.A. me devolvió mi vida porque aún no había vivido la vida. A.A. ayudó a enseñarme cómo vivir. La aplicación de sus principios ha probado seguir un camino duradero en seguridad, empatía y apoyo. El Programa de Correspondencia a las Correccionales de A.A. ayuda en esto. He formado parte de él por varios años. Cuando recibo correspondencia de parte de mi hermano en A.A., es más que sólo una carta. Es una voz familiar, una voz que realmente no he oído. Una persona que nunca he conocido oficialmente que me brinda confianza y promesa. Muchos de nosotros aquí adentro nunca hemos conocido lo que es tener relaciones sanas. El Programa de Correspondencia a las Correccionales hace más pequeño el espacio entre la esperanza y la libertad. Como consecuencia, mis lazos con mis hijos, padres, y otros miembros de la familia, y con mi Poder Superior se han enriquecido. Ahora, a la edad de cuarenta años y después de veinte años de encarcelación, estoy en una prisión con seguridad más baja de segundo nivel. Yo sé ahora de que a las personas sí les importa y que construir relaciones saludables es fundamental para todos nosotros.

– Enviado por Amando S., Prisión Estatal Valley (Chowchilla, CA) (Por medio de un Corresponsal de Correccionales del Área 11)

Para información y recursos sobre los comités de las Instituciones Correccionales [Haz click aquí.](#)

Para ser parte del servicio de Correspondencia de Correccionales [click here](#)

Heard in the Rooms

“Be spiritually fit before you do anything”.

“If you are going to pick up, pick up a phone”.

“More will be revealed”.

“An unaided will is no defense against the first drink”.



From the Archives

I am who I am

That's true as can be

There's no one on Earth that's Me-er than Me.

And because of AA it is plain to see

I'm becoming the man God meant me to be.

I was chained to my vices And now I am free

They kept me from being

The really true Me.

-Gratitude, Nick O., Vol.25 No.5 Oct'16-Nov'16

My Journey Through the Steps

Hello, my name is Willy and I am an alcoholic! My sobriety date is February 4, 2008. By the grace of God and the Fellowship of A.A., I have not had a drink since. I grew up in a small town in southwestern Indiana called Farmersburg. I know, right? It is exactly what you are picturing. My parents are not alcoholics and I was never abused mentally or sexually. I had a normal life, with one exception - an ALCOHOLIC mind! I did not know it then, but I understand it today.

I came to A.A. through a treatment center. I had no idea what A.A. was, and no idea what I had gotten myself into. I remember saying I was not going to drink, and somehow, I would end up at the bar. There were always two thoughts that went through my mind at the end. First, if I drink, I already know what is going to happen, I black out, I embarrass myself and I inevitably run into someone who says, "do you remember?". Second, I have no idea what will happen if I do not drink. The fear of not drinking always won.

When I was in treatment, this group of guys brought in a meeting every Monday and Friday. They talked about doing service work, having a sponsor and they were genuinely happy. I HATED THEM. I sat in the back of the room with my hood up, like I was the coolest kid in rehab. One day, one of them said something that upset me, so I asked him to sponsor me. He said "no", and then he introduced me to my first sponsor, Chris. My sponsor asked me to do a few things: call him every day, call five guys each day, and start meeting up with him to do the Steps. For whatever reason, I did it. I just had the willingness to do whatever he or any of these men suggested. We started to read the Big Book and do the Steps as they are laid out in the Big Book. I did not know it at the time, but this would change my life forever.

Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives are unmanageable.

I had no idea that I was an alcoholic or even knew what that meant. It required meeting with my sponsor and telling him my story. He listened and said one simple thing to me, "Willy, I do not know anyone who got divorced, lost a job, and burned a house down due to alcohol, let alone someone who did it in one week". This was the first time a person sat across from me and said that. He made a lot of sense.

I always joked that I was an alcoholic, but I had no idea what it meant to be one. You see, I had all this stuff, a car to wreck, a house to burn down and a job to get fired from. I had always pictured an alcoholic looking a certain way, and I did not match that picture. Through sponsorship, the Steps, and the Fellowship of A.A., I learned what being an alcoholic meant for *me*. Today, the second part of Step One means as much to me as the first part. I am an alcoholic. I have a mental obsession, a physical allergy, and a spiritual malady. This means that when I drink, my obsession wants more, my body needs more, and the only solution for me is that of Spirit. If I do stop drinking and I do not have a "Spirit" to replace the drink, my life gets worse, not better. This is how I know that I am an alcoholic.

- Willy H.

Laughter is Key

My laughter was drowned out by alcohol long before I ended up in A.A. Being able to enjoy a good, tears rolling down your cheek, almost pee your pants, full belly chuckle is a gift I found in sobriety that I didn't realize I had lost. While drinking, my goal was to be numb and in early sobriety, I remained that way. I ran from my emotions my entire life and when I put the bottle down and wanted to feel something, anything, I couldn't. I was an empty vessel without a solution.

I got a sponsor, a homegroup, and a commitment. Months passed. I was going through *The Book* with my sponsor and found a Higher Power but was still numb, sober but numb. I was acting my way, and kept checking my watch but, that right thinking was taking its sweet time to show up. I was starting to think I wasn't doing the steps right. My other sober friends' lives were getting better and they were happier. I was still waiting for my sobriety to start looking like everyone else's, meanwhile ignoring my journey.

At nine months sober, I attended a meeting that had a sign on the chairperson's table that read: "Lord, teach us to laugh again but God don't ever let us forget that we cried."

I smiled and felt relief. With tears in my eyes, I realized that at some point in the previous month God had restored my laughter and I hadn't noticed. I was able to smile and laugh without feeling like a robot. I was me again! A couple years



later I was walking down the street with a sponsee and got to witness her find her laughter in sobriety. It was beautiful. We laughed until we cried, then got a coffee and went to our meeting.

I am happy to report that I continue to laugh my way through this amazing life A.A. has given me but only because God doesn't let me forget that I cried.

– Katie B., Portland

Essence of Growth

Let us never fear needed change. Certainly, we have to discriminate between changes for worse and changes for better. But once a need becomes clearly apparent in an individual, in a group, or in A.A. as a whole, it has long been found out that we cannot stand still and look the other way.

The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.

-As Bill Sees It, page 115

One Last Act of Service

Last month, I attended two wakes in a single week. Both of these men, whose lives I came to celebrate, were under 35 and were robbed of the experience us 12-Steppers call "coming back". Victims of the substance use epidemic still gripping our nation. They were dear friends of mine from the twelve-step world. For me, the hardest part about surviving alcoholism and entering recovery is losing the people I love to the very same disease that could've taken my life. For me, there's only one way to carry on and that's service. Each death leaves a hole in my spirit. It is this final act of service, performed at funeral homes or outdoor memorial services, that mends the hole and heals the wound left by the loss of a young and promising life.

As I walk into that second wake, there is nothing but silence, a few faint tears - subtle cries from family and friends. The line to see the family is so long it begins outside, regardless of the chilly weather. I make my way through the line, passing off light-handed waves to some, as I approach the book where I will sign my name and take a prayer card from the stack. My gaze fixes on the stacks of glossy cards all printed with the same bright, smiling face along with a prayer. I sign the book and join the crowd, putting the prayer card in my pocket.

In a drawer beside my bed there is a cigar box full of cards like these. A sad collection, the value of which is counted in memories, potential, and love. There are too many promising young faces in there. When we lose people we love to alcoholism, especially young people, we tend to ask

a lot of questions. Why? Could I have done more? What if . . .? Over the years I've learned to stop asking these questions. The truth is there is nothing more we could have done. The truth is we did the best we could with what we had. The truth is we will never know why. As painful as it is, that has to be enough.

As people in recovery, we build beautiful, heartfelt relationships. We perform countless acts, small and large, of service for one another. In recovery, we learn to become vulnerable and show others our true selves. These are the things that make our connections so strong. We grow these intangible bonds, the full nature of which many are unable to truly see. There are so many embarrassing laughs over coffee, so many hugs shared after meetings, so many deep hour-long phone conversations. As men in recovery we build relationships that are lasting and lifelong. When I lose a fellow 12-Stepper that I've developed that bond with, it hurts just a little differently.

When I mourn, I tend to do it alone with the door shut. I don't mourn on social media or in public. I feel closer to God and the loved ones we've lost that way. I usually hit my knees and pray. I ask God to show Himself in the lives of the family and everyone around them. I ask Him to bring Light and Love into their lives. I ask Him to relieve me of my pain so I can better love and serve those around me. I know that faith without works is dead, and God's work requires action. The best way to celebrate the lives we have lost is to get out and serve those who are still here. I get off my knees, wipe my face, and get back to work. I work hard to try and keep young people connected to the pulse of recovery and those around them that love them.

With the prayer card in my pocket, I am seated among other mourners at the wake. People take turns sharing stories about the man we have lost. Today it's not about me, it's about the ones I love. It's about bringing light where there is darkness. There is no more mentoring left to do. There is only love to give and connection to share. When we get sober and go to meetings, our families don't always know what happens at them. They don't always understand the sober Fellowship, they just know we are getting better. When I approach the family, I like to tell them stories - especially funny ones. Service leaves me privileged to share with them memories of their children, first-person testimony of the courageous battle their loved ones fought. I share with them the one of greatest gifts of recovery, the smiles of serenity their children shared with me as we worked together to get better. I get to give them heartfelt moments they may have never known about. I get to share the love that I, a stranger, had for these people that they loved so much. We connect through that shared love and pain, a different kind of pain. It is a beautiful form of pain



that drives me to continue doing what I do. It is one last act of service.

–Tj A.

Who's from Outer Space

A Marian landed at an A.A. meeting, looked around and said, "Take me to your leader!" Just then, a newcomer turned to him and said, "Hey, you're in the right place, buddy. I said the same thing last week."

– *Take Me to Your Sponsor*, p.6

Being Gay in A.A.

I am a 47-year-old gay member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I attended my first A.A. meeting on May 18, 1992 and have been fortunate by the grace of God to be sober ever since. I owe my sobriety to those early meetings in my hometown. They showed me how to get sober, do the hard work necessary (the Twelve Steps), and deal with the wreckage of my past. For me at nearly two years sober, suppressing my sexuality was like trying to stop a runaway car. It was sure to send me out if I didn't deal with who and what I was, a young man of 27 struggling with his identity.

I remember mustering up the courage to make that trip to the nearby city where I had seen a gay meeting in the schedule book. I would get in my car and drive there to just turn around because of the crippling emotions I was dealing with. After several attempts over the next few months, I managed to finally make it into that meeting. I had a stiff neck and was eating double strength Tums like they were my favorite candy. When the chairperson asked if there were any newcomers or visitors that would like to introduce themselves, I raised my hand fearfully. I said "Hi, I'm Jim and I'm an alcoholic. I'm just here to figure a few things out. I'm not here to get any phone numbers or make any friends". That's how I got the nickname "Issues".

My sexuality had been a big problem for me all my life. Really, the non-acceptance of it was the real problem. I was an emotional wreck and I eventually became so grateful for those specialized (gay) meetings. Without them I may not of celebrated my 20th anniversary this year. I did not feel accepted in mainstream meetings because I did not have acceptance for myself. I felt as if I needed to hide a big part of my identity. Soon after going to the gay A.A. meetings, I could share this demon that was eating me from the inside out. I could learn to let down my walls and show the world the real me. I could work on who I was supposed to be. Everyone would love me until I was able to love myself. I made some great friends back then. They showed my not only how to stay sober, but also how to be a sober and proud gay man. I will be forever grateful for that.

I have a growing concern for the diminishing attendance and availability of gay A.A. meetings where I am from. Maybe this is true in your area also. My heart is filled with joy knowing that the gay community is becoming more accepted in the mainstream. However, I see a real need to maintain a strong network of gay A.A. meetings. When an LGBTQ person has felt prejudice, I think it is important to have a place where they can come to with their alcoholic struggles, feel totally welcomed and comfortable with who they are, where they are coming from or what they are going through.

I still attend the mainstream group where I first got sober and appreciate all the sobriety I find there, but I will also travel an hour or more round trip past many other meetings to get to a gay A.A. meeting. This is less than a lot of our early A.A. members had to do. I feel that supporting them and giving back what was so freely given to me is important. Maybe you feel the same way too. The best way I know to support a group, or a particular meeting, is by claiming my seat. That is what I do.

I hope these meetings will be there for the struggling LGBTQ alcoholic or newcomer that needs them in the future. Thank you to all the people who keep the meetings from shutting down. You, and people like you, are shining examples of what sobriety is all about. Wherever the need: *"I am responsible when anyone, anywhere, reached out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible"*.

– Jim D.

A Message from the Area 11 Archives Committee

The Area 11 Archives committee has created an **"A.A. During Covid"** survey. It is accessible by clicking the banner on the main page of ct-aa.org. This survey is intended for all Area 11 A.A. members. It asks about group experience and individual experience during the Covid-19 pandemic. There are eleven questions and an additional section for more writing if you wish to add more thoughts, comments, or experience. The materials are submitted directly from the survey page to Area 11 Archives. This has been months in the making. The project was done in conjunction with our area website committee and Webmaster. Our hope was to make a survey that was easily accessible and that captures both group and individual experience during the pandemic. We ask that you please take the time to fill out the survey and share your experience. And bring this information back to your groups. We all know these are unprecedented times in A.A. This is the first pandemic in A.A.'s history and to



consider the implications around health and A.A., safety and A.A., technology and A.A., the law and A.A. this time monumental. Our documented experiences, we believe, will be an invaluable resource to A.A. in years to come.

From Your Area 11 Delegate

Greetings fellow A.A. members! I wanted to make sure everyone is aware of two important and interesting online events that are coming up: Area 11 Spring Assembly (May 23rd) and Northeast Regional Forum (June 4th-6th).

Save the Date: Area 11 Spring Assembly May 23 (Online)

Thank you to the many of you that participated in this year's online Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly on March 27th where we spent several hours discussing issues affecting A.A. as a whole! Some might be wondering: "What is the Pre-Conference Assembly, and why is it called that?" The "Conference" that it precedes is an annual week-long event known as the General Service Conference. Every Area elects a Delegate to attend and participate in this annual Conference. Area 11 is the state of Connecticut (minus two towns) and I have the honor and privilege of serving as your current Area 11 Delegate. The purpose of the Pre-Conference Assembly is to have an Assembly where your Area Delegate can hear the thoughts and feedback on what the local A.A. membership thinks, *before* the Delegate attends the General Service Conference. That is why the Pre-Conference Assembly has its name: it takes place *before* the General Service Conference. That event took place on March 27th and was a very inspiring day! That said, the process would be incomplete without the report-back that happens *after* the General Service Conference. While the Area 11 Spring Assembly is not titled the "Post-Conference Assembly," thinking about it in those terms can help with keeping in mind how the two Assemblies relate to the General Service Conference process. **Please join us on May 23rd for an online Assembly where your Area 11 Delegate will be reporting back on what took place at this year's General Service Conference. Your Area 11 Chairperson will soon be distributing details on this. Please check with your District Committee Member (DCM) for details.**

Save the Date: Northeast Regional Forum June 4-6 (Online)

A regional forum is an event hosted by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. These forums include workshops, presentations, and the opportunity to ask questions of Trustees of the General Service Board, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine/La Vina Directors, and staff members of the General Service Office and Grapevine/La Vina Office. The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) will take place online the weekend of June 4th-June

6th. Interested A.A. members can register to attend, but please know that there is no registration fee associated with this event! Check this out for the opportunity to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous beyond Connecticut. I have gotten in the car and driven for many hours to attend this event when it takes place in person. This year, the travel has never been shorter. For more information on regional forums, please visit https://aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums.

– Matt K.

Let's Talk Treasury

Greetings Area 11, I'm Ryan R., an alcoholic and I have been serving as your Area 11 Alternate Treasurer since the beginning of the year. It is such an honor to be able to serve our Area as one part of the Treasurer and Alt Treasurer team. Jeff, our Area 11 Treasurer, and I have been hard at work learning our positions, and have learned a great deal so far. I am hoping to describe to you all what I do and what we are hoping to accomplish.

As the Alternate Treasurer I visit the P.O. Box on a weekly basis and gather the mail. I get so inspired by what I see. As we all know, this past year has been a challenge. Although, we may have had some ups and downs, our Area has been committed to carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. This is evident through the contributions that Area 11 has received. I sometimes get little notes that say, "thank you" to the Area Officers or Area Committee for all the work they do. I am always reminded that we would not be able to carry the message or function as your trusted servants without the support and contributions from all the groups in our Area. Please remember that no matter how big or small, every time your group sends a check or contributes online ([7th Tradition Contribution Information](#)) you are supporting our Area in carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

If you would like to know more about how our special service committees actively carry the message during the pandemic, please reach out to them and ask! Also, Jeff and I are planning some exciting workshops for those interested in learning more about the 7th Tradition. Topics include setting up group bank accounts, best practices for creating a budget, and other treasury-related topics.

I also serve as Chairperson on the Area 11 Finance Committee. I proudly serve on this committee along with Area Treasurer, Jeff B.; Area Chairperson, Mike R.; and Area 11 Delegate, Matt K. We perform a range of duties such as reviewing bank statements and quarterly Area 11 Finances. We also discuss best practices to become the most effective stewards of our Area finances.



If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or would just like to chat sometime, please reach out to me at alltreasurer@ct-aa.org. Thank you for your inspiration and love, and it is an honor to serve you!

– Ryan R., Area 11 Alt. Treasurer

Service Committees

Area 11 maintains standing service committees whose mission is to serve the A.A. community in Connecticut and carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who still suffers. Visit the individual service committee pages below to learn more:

- [Accessibilities Committee](#)
- [Alki-Line Committee](#)
- [Answering Service Committee](#)
- [Archives Committee](#)
- [Cooperation with the Professional Community \(CPC\) Committee](#)
- [Corrections Committee](#)
- [Grapevine Committee](#)
- [Public Information \(PI\) Committee](#)
- [Schedules Committee](#)
- [Treatment Center Committee](#)
- [Website Committee](#)

Being Responsible as A.A. Members re: COVID

As hope for a return to normalcy is increased and while A.A. has no rules, compliance with local/state guidelines and protocols for meeting spaces are important. Let us remember to honor our Traditions, not taking actions affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, and not being drawn into public controversy.

What's New on AA.org



So much new on the Alcoholics Anonymous website! From the latest editions of *Box 4-5-9* and *Sharing from Behind the Walls*, to American Sign Language on the A.A.W.S YouTube Channel, Regional Form videos and a variety of reports, it's all a click away!

Explore [What's New of AA.org](#)

CSCYPAA

The Connecticut State Conference of Young People in A.A. is an annual young person's convention that meets Thanksgiving weekend. Our goal is to carry the message of recovery, unity, and service. We do this by holding monthly committee meetings where we plan events, assemble panels, and coordinate fellowship activities for the weekend of the convention. Throughout the year, we also partner with other committees and groups to host meetings and fellowship events. Our committee plays an active role in the Area 11 service structure. We participate in conversations and provide an informed group conscience through our chairperson's vote.

Throughout my sobriety, CSCYPAA has given me many opportunities to learn and grow. This is my fourth year on the committee. I have the honor and privilege of serving as this year's chair. My first year on the committee I served as the t-shirt chair. That year I completely dropped the ball fulfilling my commitment, but at the convention I was able to show up, be of service, and hear a message that inspired me to return the following year. Since then, I have experienced what it is like to honestly show up and make myself available, however the group sees fit.

Last year, our committee made the decision to host our first virtual convention. It was a scary choice. None of us had ever put together a large online event. However, we were able to come together as a committee, pioneer a new way of carrying the message, and still adhere to our Principles. We were able to reach hundreds of alcoholics across several countries.

Interested in getting involved? Join our committee! We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month at 12:00 PM (noon) on Zoom. For more information on how to get involved please visit our website at CSCYPAA.org or feel free to email cscypaa@ct-aa.org with any questions.

Grateful for the opportunity to be of service,

– Kyle M., CSCYPAA 36 Chairperson

Responsibility Pledge

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that, I am responsible!

Public Service Announcement

Would you like to get involved in service at the district level?

A District Committee Member (DCM), special committee representative, or your group's General Service Representative (GSR) could provide you with information and guidance. You could also attend a district/GSR meeting.

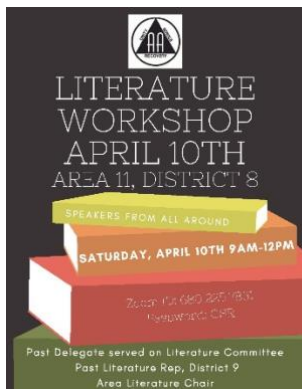
Don't know when your district meeting is? Or, perhaps you don't even know what district is yours? [The District Map](#) will help you determine your district. Once you know your district number, go to the [Area 11 Service Calendar](#) to find out the district meeting details – or ask a GSR.

Save the Dates

Literature Workshop Area 11, District 8

Saturday, April 10: 9:00am – 12:00pm (virtual)

Speakers from all around! Past Delegate served on Literature Committee, Past Literature Rep. District 9, Area Literature Chair



For more information visit: [Literature Workshop](#)

Area 11 Spring Assembly

How to reach A.A.: 866-STEPS12

Sunday, May 23: 8:00am – 5:00pm (virtual)

[Area 11 Spring Assembly Information](#)

Please refer to www.ct-aa.org for information regarding state-wide recovery events and online meetings.

Alcoholics Anonymous®

WIN A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Here's the catch...

We Want to Hear from You!

For each item submitted to the Alki-Line committee for our upcoming April–May, June–July, and August–September issues you will receive an entry into the drawing for a one-year subscription of the A.A. Grapevine. A random drawing will determine the lucky subscription recipient.

The more items you submit, the more chances to win!

Share your stories, essays, articles, poetry, etc. with others through the Alki-Line. We are accepting submissions of one page or less:

Email: alkiline@ct-aa.org

Mail: Alki-Line, P.O. Box 7060, Meriden, CT 06450

Or hand your material to your GSR or Alki-Line Representative

¡Queremos saber más de Usted!

Mándenos las historias personales, los ensayos, las opiniones, la poesía, etc. . . y entérenos más de usted en el Alki-Line. Se puede entregar una página o menos de las historias a una de los siguiente:

Por el correos electrónicos: alkiline@ct-aa.org

Por el correos: Alki-Line, P.O. Box 7060, Meriden, CT 06450

O De mano a su GSR or Representativo de Alki-Line



Para ponerse en contacto con A.A., llame: 855-ESPANCT



Alki-Line

This newsletter is by and for alcoholics; however, we review submissions by all interested in the A.A. program of recovery. Material may be edited for clarity and length. This newsletter and earlier issues can be downloaded at www.ct-aa.org.

This is an honest fellowship; we presume all submissions are original or in the public domain. Following publication all copyright reverts to the owner.

