



ALKI-LINE



TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE

The Area 11 A.A. Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 2 April 2022 - May 2022

God, I...

*"God, I offer myself to thee."** Whoa. What's this? Deep within me, in the place I hide things I hear the voice of my ego: "This is foolishness. You are just fine as you are. Don't offer anything." *"To build with me and do with me as thou wilt."* My ego is jumping up and down shouting: "No, no, no and NO."

Here's how I look at the Third Step prayer. I thought, what if a world-famous cabinet maker moved his shop into town. In the past I have tried and failed many times to make fine furniture. So I approached him and *offered* to be his apprentice. He said, "Sure, but we have to work together on this. And you do as I ask." He started me off cleaning the floor. I complained that I wanted to start right away making fine furniture. "How can you make fine furniture if I don't *build you up first?*" "Yeah, yeah I know" was my reply as I grabbed the handle of the broom. As I gave the floor my attention, I also watched how he worked. I began to see his way of making fine furniture.

"Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will." I realized that I have a lot of poor carpentry skills that were keeping me in bondage from doing fine work. I suppose I could learn how to be a better carpenter. I buckled down and did what was asked of me.

"Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy power." Okay, that sounded like a lot to do. If I want to be a good carpenter, then yes, he will help me get rid of my old bad practices, *my difficulties*. In time I was able to become a better carpenter. The new and improved furniture I made *will bear witness* to his teaching and my willingness to learn. I received much from the power of love and his way of doing things. Hopefully, people will recognize his style and quality of furniture in what I now make.

"Thy love and thy way of life. May I do Thy will always." The master furniture maker has moved. I have set up my shop in his old place. His *love and way of life*. His patience with me as I grew my carpentry skills will always be remembered. He has

shown me how to live and I hope to *always* make furniture to his high standards.

When I first read this prayer many years ago, I realized that it was asking me for complete surrender. I would be built up anew and relieved of my bondage. My difficulties would be taken away. Not by my power, but by His - my Higher Power. I now find joy and love as I surrender my self-control - One Day at a Time.

** Third Step prayer from page 63 of the A.A. Big Book.*

- Al Di.

One is a Lonely Number

Right from the foggy, confusing, painful start, you told me, "Don't drink and go to meetings." It had to be that simple. All I wanted to do was isolate. During my first few months of going to meetings, I wanted to hide in the back row or in the corner. If I hit a meeting that was one large circle, my anxiety would go through the roof and I'd avoid it in future. You told me, "It's OK to shut my mouth and listen." When I couldn't hide, I would remember to just sit and listen.

Then, you told me to get a sponsor. My sponsor found me and hung back just enough so I could be the one to ask. I asked and she said, "Yes!" She took me through the Steps right away. We kept very busy with meetings, get-togethers and Step work. After one full year with no relapses, I finally had a consistent means of staying sober.

Fast forward through eight years of sobriety. I still want it and I still do the work (here comes the "but"), but my meetings have gone down to one per week and my sponsor and I have grown apart. Life can do this to us and there are factors that we cannot control in sobriety. Life does and will get in the way, but without sobriety, there is no life.

For the first time in eight years, my disease has an opportunity to convince me that I can do this on my own. "I don't need A.A., I got this." If I didn't have that solid foundation of eight years, I might just give in to that little voice in my head.



By the grace of God, I have a good support system of A.A. friends who keep reaching out. I know that the power I do have over this disease is to keep making the decision to reach back and hold on to my A.A. program.

“One is a lonely number” and one meeting a week is a dangerous habit for this alcoholic. My Higher Power is leading me back. All I have to do is to remain honest, open-minded and willing.

–Kim L. (from the archives, Vol.28 No.1 April -May 2019)

Roundup 2022

“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service”
Saturday, April 9, 2022

Our goal is to provide an event where we can learn a little, share a little, and grow a little.

In keeping with the spiritual direction of the 72nd General Service Conference, we have arranged panels to discuss the presentations that will be presented at the Conference. There will be time for questions and sharing after each panel presentation.

Panel Presentation Topics:

- How do we go to any Length for Recovery, Unity, and Service?
- Going Beyond Fear
- How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere

After the panels, there will be a presentation on the Workshop topic, which is *The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World*.

The Archives Committee is putting together *a History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Connecticut* along with some trivia fun. The *History of Al-Anon in Connecticut* will be presented by the Al-Anon historian.

We know you won't want to miss this event. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

For information and registration, [Click Here](#)

In Service to A.A.,
– *The Roundup Committee*

Humor from the AA Grapevine

BAD INVESTMENT (September 2015)

Q: How do you turn an alcoholic into a millionaire?
A: Give him a billion dollars.

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Area 11 Event Committees

The Area 11 Event Committees meet monthly to plan our annual events. The committees can benefit from your participation and service. The [Area 11 Service Calendar](#) provides meeting details, as well as information about other service committees, district, and area meetings.

Area 11 Convention

Meets 3rd Sunday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (virtually)

Round-Up

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:00 pm

Rompiendo Fronteras

Meets 3rd Wednesday 6:00 pm

CSCYPAA

Meets 4th Sunday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Soberfest

Meets 1st Sunday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

News and Notes

Reminder on the A.A. Service Manual

Check out the revised and reformatted A.A. Service Manual, as approved by the 71st General Service Conference! You can view it at no cost [here](#).

Delegate's Reports

Monthly Delegate's Reports are available on www.ct-aa.org in English and Spanish. [Click here for quick access](#).



AAGV – Podcasts

Click to experience! [Grapevine Podcast | AA Grapevine](#)

Subscriptions and Literature

Visit [AA Grapevine Store • Magazines, Books & More](#).

Carry the Message Project

Want to help another alcoholic? Grapevine and La Viña are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for: Sponsees * Newcomers * Prisons * Detoxes * Doctor's Offices * Group Celebrations * District and Area Events * Giveaways.

Go to <https://www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message> to get started. Carry the Message, it's easy!





presents

The Gratitude List

The Alki-Line is excited to announce a brand-new feature, "The Gratitude List." Members from across the Area share their gratitude by visiting our web page and sending a message directly to your Alki-Line committee.

I am grateful for...

- *I'm grateful for the A.A. slogan, "Let Go and Let God," which has become a mantra of late and has helped me through some difficult and painful losses.*
- Amy G., Bridgewater
- *I am grateful for my sponsor and my service sponsor.*
- Il'ia, New Haven

Here's your opportunity to be part of this exciting column!

Visiting the Alki-Line page at: <https://ct-aa.org/alki-line/> to tell us something you are grateful for.



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

Area 11 Pre-Conference Assembly

April 3, 2022; 8:30 am – 1:30 pm
Online, via Zoom ([Click Here to view flyer](#))

Area 11 Round Up

April 9, 2022; 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Online, via Zoom ([Click here to view flyer](#))

Area 11 Spring Assembly

May 22, 2022
TBD

Area 11 63rd Annual Convention

September 24, 2022; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Virtual w/ hybrid component

Area 11 Fall Assembly

November 6, 2022

Public Service Announcement

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

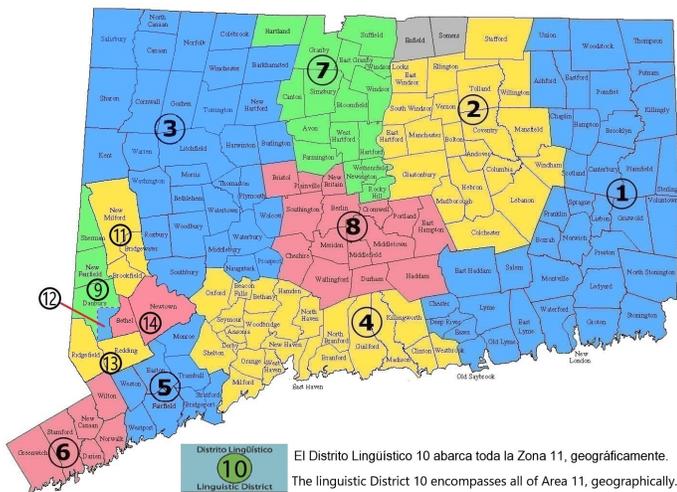
A District Committee Member (DCM), special committee representative, or your group's General Service Representative (GSR) could provide you with information and guidance. You could also attend a district/GSR meeting. *Don't know when your district meeting is? Or perhaps you don't even know what district 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.

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](#)



Area 11 Districts



Learn about the Area 11 Districts [here](#).

Create & Print Meeting Schedules and more on the Area 11 Website

Our Area 11 Website continues to evolve and be a central source of information and communication. This resource is even more critical during these times of limitations with in-person interaction. Some, but not all, of recent enhancements/additions include:

- ****Create & Print meeting schedules****
- Landing page links to crucial information & events
- Meeting finder tool
- Contact information for the Area 11 Officers
- District maps and information
- From the events calendar, links to events outside of Area 11

Visit www.ct-aa.org

Being Responsible as A.A. Members

With the increased availability of in-person meetings and while A.A. has no rules, compliance with local/state guidelines and protocols for meeting spaces are essential. 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.



The Alki-Line



The Alki-Line is a bi-monthly publication by the Area 11 Alki-Line Committee, a dedicated team of trusted servants, whose primary purpose is to offer current events, articles, and information that foster experience, strength, and hope in recovery, in the spirit of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and in particular “to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.” The Alki-Line has many service positions and would benefit significantly from more district representation.

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

Hand: your material to your GSR

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.

**Alcoholics
Anonymous®**