



# ALKI-LINE



TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE

The Area 11 A.A. Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 4 August 2022 - September 2022

## What's Happening in A.A. as a Whole?

Maybe you heard some discussion earlier this year about potential literature changes and other interesting discussions. What came of all that? Check out a 10-minute video presentation! Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



For questions or additional information, contact your GSR, DCM, or the Area 11 Delegate, [delegate@ct-aa.org](mailto:delegate@ct-aa.org).

## "What's New" on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Did you know that [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) has a "What's New" section linked directly off the home page? (Scroll to the bottom of the landing page and click on "What's New")

You can find up to date announcements, activities, and more, along with notices from the past few months. Access info on a F.A.Q. for the 2025 International Convention, Special Forums, Press Releases, Requests to the Fellowship, PSA Announcements, Quarterly Reports, and more!

[Click here and check it out!](#)

WWW.CT-AA.ORG



## Sober Fun

When I was 11 months sober, I attended my first A.A. convention. I was asked to volunteer for a skit our young people's committee was going to hold. As I walked into the hotel, my jaw dropped when I realized there would be people that I hadn't met yet watching me in our murder mystery. Luckily, I was the first one to be "murdered" with silly string and only had to play dead on the stage until it was over. I remember hearing the laughter fill the ballroom. Something changed for me that night.

The next night there was a sobriety countdown at the main meeting. I was bummed I couldn't stand to be recognized for a year sober, having only two weeks shy of a year. As I watched people stand with 30-days than two weeks down to one day, my heart filled with joy to be a part of something so amazing. I caught the convention bug. One of my friends encouraged me to join the convention committee and see how it all comes together ... so I did. That same friend took me on tour with her for the next few months. Two weeks in, we went to Garden State Young People (GSYP) in North Jersey where the DJ announced my one year at the Saturday night dance!

The following month we went to Virginia (where she had gotten sober), attended another convention, and met some more amazing people. That summer, we went back to Virginia to attend VSCYPAA (Virginia State Conference of Young People in A.A.) and I recognized some of the people we met at the other Virginia conference. There were A.A.'s from all over. Whether I was selling soda at a dance, volunteering as a greeter, or chairing a meeting, becoming a part of the convention environment and service as a whole has been one of the greatest gifts of my sobriety. I met my husband while outreaching for PENNSCYPAA (Pennsylvania State Conference of Young People in A.A.) in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and actually spoke with him in Springfield, Massachusetts at NECYPAA. But that is a whole other story...

— Katie B., Portland, CT

WWW.AA.ORG

## There is a Solution

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Area 11 Convention with Al-Anon Participation  
Saturday, September 24, 2022

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Area 11 Convention was a weekend-long event hosted by the Area to provide a variety of workshops and meetings, and to create a setting for fellowship and carrying the message.

The last scheduled in-person Convention was to take place at the Stamford Hilton in the fall of 2020 before it was canceled by group conscience due to uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. In 2021, a small and dedicated group planned and executed Area 11's very first virtual convention. The event had close to 200 registrants. Many commented that although they missed being together in person, the spirit of the Convention shined through. The energy, enthusiasm, and A.A. message was carried by both the speakers and participants alike. This one-day event was held entirely online and supported by 7th Tradition contributions.

The success of the 2021 virtual convention inspired the 2022 Committee to present a virtual convention during the daytime program and feature the evening keynote speakers in a hybrid setting. The online day program will run from 8:30 am-4:00 pm. The hybrid evening program will run from 6:00 pm-10:00 pm at the Pitkin Community Center in Wethersfield, CT.

Our program committee has been working tirelessly to create a day of inspiring and inclusive topics and speakers, and of course, registrants will be able to take a trip through all Twelve Steps. We are looking forward to celebrating with an exciting sobriety countdown as well as our in-person A.A. and Al-Anon evening speakers. The Convention is being funded by voluntary 7th Tradition contributions. We are only as successful as the support we all receive. Registration is limited, so register early!

– Laurie P., 63rd Annual Area 11 Convention Chair

Registration is NOW OPEN!!

[Area 11 Convention – Online and Hybrid programs – Alcoholics Anonymous \(ct-aa.org\)](#)



## The Power of the State Convention

Home Group Celebration  
Saturday, September 24, 2022

**CONVENTIONS SAVE LIVES:** From the Big Book, pg. 335, “...on the day I took a 30-day chip, a friend took me to an AA get-together. I was in absolute awe of the power of 2000 plus sober alcoholics holding hands, saying the final prayer together, and I wanted to stay sober more than I wanted life itself.”

**HOME GROUPS SAVE LIVES:** Although anyone who has been around for a while knows this, we have combined the vital importance of one's Home Group with The Power of the State Convention in a way that is effective for newcomers to easily grasp.

**WHAT YOUR HOME GROUP CAN DO:** Three things, all before the **SEPTEMBER 15, 2022** deadline:

1. **Pre-registration** of members of your home group. It is permissible for your group to buy any number of scholarships as all or part of your total, and then include names of group members (who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend) before the convention by emailing our Registration Chair at [Area11conventiononlinereg@gmail.com](mailto:Area11conventiononlinereg@gmail.com)
2. Find a talented member of your group to make a **convention sign (banner)** with your home group's name, town, day and time, and anything else you think is cool. Please email a photo of it to [area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com).
3. Ask another talented member to write a **short essay** about how important their home group has been to them. A selection of these will be published in our Area 11 newsletter, Alki-Line. These may be emailed to [area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com).

**CELEBRATING HOME GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION:** Your home group banners and essays will be on virtual display during the weekend. Participation may include the opportunity to read your home group essay during events! Get those pre-registrations in by **September 15** and have the participation of your home group recognized.

**SEE YOU AT THE CONVENTION AND LET'S CELEBRATE OUR HOME GROUPS!**

**Questions?** Please contact Jodi K. at (860) 944.4642 or email [area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:area11conventionoutreach@gmail.com).

## Whispers...

I was confined to my hospital bed. My girlfriend, sister, and daughter had their “anxious” faces on as they observed the sorry mess that was me. They knew me as a partner, brother, and father.

Let’s imagine for a moment that two spiritual entities are whispering:

“Do you think he will get it?”

“I don’t know, this is his first time.”

“I have seen his kind before, five bucks says he’ll be here again.”

“This was severe. I think he’ll get the message. I’ll take your bet.”

That was then...

During a meeting, as people were sharing, I came to the realization that through my drunken bouts, my God, my Higher Power (HP) had not only been whispering to me but was often shouting. My ears had been filled, not with cotton, but with wine bottle corks and bottle tops from a variety of distilleries.

I didn’t hear my HP when I scraped my car on a pole; met another doctor in another hospital; scraped my car on a something I don’t remember; ended up in a ditch and was introduced to some nice New York State Police people. *HP, stop shouting!*

Pray, the people in A.A. said. Wait for the miracle. Keep coming. Meeting-makers make it. Yada, yada, yada - sure. A.A. was my last resort. Nothing left. Tried most things. Okay, okay, okay – I’ll try prayer. Now get off my back. I sure landed on my back a few times. Drunk, passed out, puke on my shirt. Family looking down at me. Glad there were no photos. The memories are bad enough.

I prayed the prayer of a coward. “God, I am not willing to give up alcohol, but if YOU make me willing, then I will be willing”. Humph, that will show them. Be careful what you wish for. HP’s whisper was so soft I didn’t hear it at first. A week went by without a drink – I didn’t even realize it. Then HP’s whisper became louder – “Stay with me. You don’t need to drink.” As weeks went by without drinking, HP’s whisper became bolder. “It’s your choice now. I have given you the gift of sobriety, free and clear. I have always been with you – but now I ask that you hold me close.”

That was four years ago. I hear HP whispering to me all the time now. I hear it at every meeting and often over the phone. It is YOU. Yeah, you, and you, and you who share your trials, tribulation, and triumphs in your journey of sober living. I have always thought at meetings I was getting some good ideas and stuff like that – which I was. However, if I listen closely, I can hear the Spiritual Voice of A.A,

making its way around the room. Whispering, whispering, whispering – one meeting at a time – one day at a time.

More whispering:

“Pay up, you lost the bet”.

“Aw come on, we don’t have real money here”.

“It’s not the money you moron, it’s the principle”.

“Sheesh, here – it’s only Monopoly money anyway”.

– Al Di.

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

## 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!

## Humor from the AA Grapevine

*Humbly Submitted* (from the July 2016 issue)

Dearest Grapevine, please find the attached short submission for your consideration:

Me, me, me, me, me

Me, me, me, me, me, me

Me, me, me, me, me, me

Me, me, me, me, me

*Reprinted with permission of AA Grapevine, Inc.*



## Making Our Literature Accessible to All

The mission of the Accessibilities Committee is to explore, develop, and offer resources to alcoholics with significant barriers to receiving the A.A. message and to participating in our program of recovery. We want A.A. to be available to all alcoholics who reach out for it.

A.A. wants to make sure that our literature is accessible to all who desire it. We currently have our Big Book in 45 different languages as well as in Braille and American Sign Language. There are also a number of other A.A. publications in a variety of languages as well. We have large print books, CDs, cassettes, and computer discs that feature the Big Book, 12 & 12, multiple speakers, and even one from the 58th Annual Convention.

**Currently, we are in need of people who can translate or be interpreters for the members of our fellowship who are fluent in languages other than English.** Our goal is to have a list of volunteers we can call upon when the need arises.

If you would like to volunteer or if you need literature in a different language, or literature for a person who is homebound, hospitalized, or confined, please email me at [suzyqcakelady@gmail.com](mailto:suzyqcakelady@gmail.com).

Grateful to be carrying the message.

- Sue S.

## Revised Safety in A.A. Service Pieces

Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions to help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

Revised service materials regarding safety in A.A. was released in April, can be found on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Click on the links below for direct access:

- [SMF-209 Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare](#)
- [Safety and A.A. Flyer](#)
- [Safety Cards for A.A. Groups](#)

These pieces are also available in Spanish.

## 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!***



## News and Notes

### Box 4-5-9 Summer Edition

Newsletter from the General Service Office: [Box 459 | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#). Scan the QR code below!



### Delegate's Reports

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

### 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](#).

### Call for Stories

- 5<sup>th</sup> Edition "Big Book" – email to [5BBStory@aa.org](mailto:5BBStory@aa.org) by 10/31/22
- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Spanish "Big Book" – email to [4LGHistorias@aa.org](mailto:4LGHistorias@aa.org) by 12/15/22
- "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic" pamphlet – email [pamphletstories@aa.org](mailto:pamphletstories@aa.org)

For questions on submitting your writing contact your GSR, District Committee Member, or email [alkiline@ct-aa.org](mailto:alkiline@ct-aa.org)

## Bridging the Gap

Helping the alcoholic leaving the correction/treatment facility by providing A.A. volunteers to be temporary contacts and introduce the newcomer to A.A. when transitioning back into the community.

**Are you in need of an A.A. volunteer?** Scan the QR code or call: 855-565-2345. Leave your name, gender, phone, date, and location of discharge.



**Want to learn more about Bridging the Gap or become a volunteer?** Scan the QR code or visit [Bridging the Gap – Alcoholics Anonymous \(ct-aa.org\)](#)



## Public Service Announcement

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

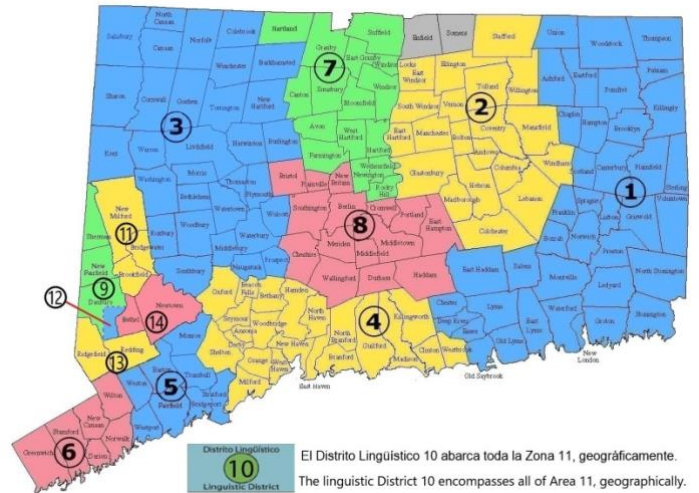
A District Committee Member (DCM), special committee representative, or your group's General Service Representative (GSR) could provide you with information and guidance. You could also attend a district/GSR meeting. *Don't know when your district meeting is? Or perhaps you don't even know what district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



Please refer to [www.ct-aa.org](http://www.ct-aa.org) for information regarding state-wide recovery events and meeting information.

**General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine/La Viña Workshop (Virtual)**

Friday, September 16, 2022; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
No registration needed. If you would like to attend, please email: [alt-delegate@ct-aa.org](mailto:alt-delegate@ct-aa.org) for the link to the event.

**Corrections Workshop (Hybrid)**

**Hosted by District 6 Corrections Committee, Area 11**  
Sunday, August 21, 2022; 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm  
1184 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT 06905 (Re-Al Club)  
[https://ct-aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Corrections-Workshop-2022\\_ENG-3.pdf](https://ct-aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Corrections-Workshop-2022_ENG-3.pdf)

**Area 11 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention**

**There is a Solution**  
Saturday, September 24, 2022; 8:30 am – 10:00 pm  
Presenting both online (day) and hybrid (evening) programs  
[Area 11 Convention – Online and Hybrid programs – Alcoholics Anonymous \(ct-aa.org\)](#)

**Area 11 Fall Assembly** (This is a voting assembly)  
Sunday, November 6, 2022 – Program details TBD, stay tuned!

## The Gratitude List.

**I am grateful for...**

- *I'm grateful for the peace I have in my life. Even when things get a little chaotic, I feel calm. The A.A. program has taught me what's important; what I can control and what I have to let be. Trusting in my Higher Power has removed the paralyzing fear and anxiety that used to define my life. I no longer feel alone, and I know that I have value. I'm grateful for this new life. It is a wonderful gift. - Sue S., Southington*
- *I received my 12yr anniversary coin from a young man with 10 months. Grateful for the program working in his life. - Lisa H., Hartford*

**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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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.*

