



ALKI-LINE



TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE

The Area 11 A.A. Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 5 October 2022 - November 2022

Beyond My Fears

“ . . . turn *my* will and *my* life over to the care of God . . . ?”
That was my greatest fear.

Did I have any understanding of Step Three “ . . . God as I understood Him?”

Nope.

What would God* do to me, or ask me to do, if I turned my life over to Him? I was *not* ready to give up *my* control of me.

I chewed on Step Three for many months, not making much headway. I was a coward. I was afraid. So I said to God, “If you make me willing, to be willing, then that would be okay”. So that was my prayer for several months. “Okay, God, do your stuff - I dare you.” The moral of this story: be careful of what you pray for.

As time went on, I failed to notice that I had not had a drink in over a week. Where had my desire for a drink gone? I was astounded that this had happened. I also noticed that my fear of God taking over my life was still present, but it no longer seemed important. In its place, I felt calm. What had happened?

The grace of God (my Higher Power) was not earned - it was a gift. To me. Free of charge. I could accept it or return it to the “store” it came from. Since I am here, I obviously accepted this unearned gift. So what about “His will for me?” I slowly came to realize that I *wanted* to do His will. His will for me was simply doing the right thing. “The next right thing, and doing the next thing right”. One day at a time. I didn’t have to be the superhero that I thought I needed to be in order to “do His will”.

I realized that I could continue to be *me*. I didn’t need to be the religious or spiritual heavy lifter I thought I needed to be to “do His will”. His will for me doesn’t scare me anymore. I do it willingly and with little thought. Be kind. Be thoughtful. Be honest. Be (add your own word here).

I have taken a liking to the phrase: “Keep coming until the miracle happens”. Yeh. Not hard work. I just kept coming. Kept praying. To my surprise - It happened. I have moved beyond my fears and moved into a realm of acceptance. His

will and mine move along the same path. The path to a wholesome life. A life of sobriety. One Day at a Time.

** My God/Higher Power is centered in the Universe of care, love, and understanding and not necessarily the God of an established religion. For me, prayers are my intentions/petitions to the Universe. That said, The Universe does what it does.*

– Al Di.

To Those Who Love Me

To those who loved me when I could not:
Thank you for the gift
For shining light upon the path
Where I too often tripped, and fell.

To those who picked me up:
Thank you for the lift
For reaching down when I had slipped.
And fallen into the dark abyss

To those who cared
When I did not:
Thank you for your heart, your time
For eyes that searched, and opened mine.

– Gary W., Danbury, CT

Elegy for EJ

He always wanted to run the show
the neediest person you’ll ever know.
He was ringmaster of every circus,
in despair he’d just desert us.
He’d lend a hand whatever the trouble,
no self-esteem, an empty bubble.
He was there if ever you’d need him,
then at once, you couldn’t see him.
He was my mate, a comrade like none other,
a lost boy without a mother,
He was a loyal subject of Amber Regal.
Now he’s bits for a wandering seagull.
His blood runs in my veins,
I will always feel his pain.

– Anonymous, 03221983



The Power of the State Convention

Home Group Celebration 2022

The 63rd Annual Area 11 Convention, *There is a Solution!*, was held September 24. Participation came from across CT and beyond our borders.

Your home groups were celebrated with banners and essays which were shared throughout the event. Thank you for your participation! Winners in three categories were announced:

- Pre-Registration: A tie between the Primary Purpose Group of Middletown and the Day Openers Group of Meriden
- Banner: The Day Openers Group of Meriden
- Essay: The Primary Purpose Group of Middletown.

Primary Purpose Group of Middletown

In 1995, eight members of an A.A. group looked around and, in their own words, “noticed little discipline and cohesion in many groups which ignored or rejected the principles spelled out in the Traditions.” It was time, they thought, to form a new group. Thus, the Primary Purpose Group was formed and with it the special and meaningful name was determined in its first decision.

After studying A.A. literature – books, pamphlets, essays – the founders collectively knew the group could only survive as long as A.A.’s Traditions were followed. Monthly business meetings would reinforce A.A.’s suggestions for the practice of unity via group conscience and spirit of rotation. No single person or group of persons was placed “in charge” – leaders understood the importance of trusted service to provide the example by which newcomers would be welcomed and invited to positions in the group. This practice of monthly business meetings continue to this day where no one person is considered more important than any other, or had more to say on any given issue or topic.

Our group meets twice per week and we read two of the most important recovery books in A.A.- The Twelve and Twelve on Mondays and the Big Book on Fridays. We hope that by studying the literature we can most effectively share the message of A.A. recovery for newcomers and old-timers alike. On Monday we spend

10 – 15 minutes each week discussing one of the Twelve Traditions, and rotate through them all. We take our recovery seriously and we take our meeting and our group seriously as well. A group member summarized recently by saying “we try to create the environment where the spiritual experience can happen” – and it can be said that our efforts are geared towards that ideal.

We have a greeting crew at every meeting to keep an eye out for newcomers, relapsers, old-timers and everyone else in between to make sure anyone walking in the door feels welcome. Many a newcomer has walked through our doors and been given a chance to come in at their own pace and ask questions when needed and to feel like entering an A.A. meeting is to come to a place where they can be safe and relax and not feel the pressures of outside world that have become fearful and bewildering.

Yes, we take our group seriously but there is, however, a vast amount of fun about it all. Our group trips to the Maine A.A. Roundup are legend for their spiritual power where many a newcomer has come to see the joy of feeling there’s a place where they belong and where there truly is a way to become happy and usefully whole once again through recovery, camaraderie and fellowship with others who are just like him or her and with whom they can grow in recovery together.

Today, when you come to an A.A. meeting at the Primary Purpose Group in Middletown, you can still hear the echoes of the founders in the way group members practice our 12th Step and honor the Fifth Tradition and the name of the group – by carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers. At every meeting, you can still see the age-old practice of engaging members and newcomers – one alcoholic talking to another and spreading the message of experience, strength, and hope in Alcoholics Anonymous and our Fellowship’s thirty-six principles.

– Dave W., Primary Purpose Group of Middletown

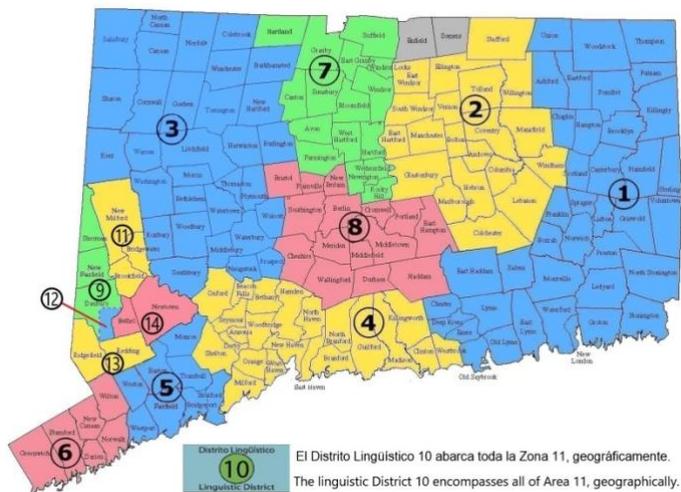
Responsibility Pledge

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!



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

“What’s New” on www.aa.org

Did you know that 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!](#)

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 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](#).

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. 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](#)

“The Spiritual Angle”

How often do we sit in A.A. meetings and hear the speaker declare, “But I haven’t yet got the spiritual angle.” Prior to this statement, he has described a miracle of transformation which has occurred in him- not only his release from alcohol, but a complete change in his whole attitude toward life and the living of it.

It is apparent to everyone else that he has received a great gift, and that this gift is all but of proportion to anything that may be expected from simple A.A. participation. So, we in the audience smile and say to ourselves, “Well, that guy is just reeking with the spiritual angle- except that he doesn’t seem to know it yet!” *As Bill Sees It, p.101*





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

Area 11 Fall Assembly

(This is a voting assembly)

Sunday, November 6, 2022 – Program details TBD

CSCYPAA

The Connecticut State Convention of Young People in A.A.
November 25 – November 27

Visit www.cscspaa.org for information and registration.

Tri-City Alkathons

Cheshire Grange, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire, CT

Christmas: 12/24 noon-midnight & 12/25 8:00am-noon

New Years: 12/31 noon-1:30 am & 1/1 8:00am-noon

Holiday Alkathons at the Sahara Club

101 Main St. Ansonia, CT

Thanksgiving: November 23 5:00pm - November 24 5:00pm

Christmas: December 24 5:00pm - December 25 5:00pm

New Year's: December 31 5:00pm - January 1 5:00pm

District 7 NYE Alkathon

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1655 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

December 31 starting at 6:00pm through 6:00pm January 1

The Gratitude List.

I am grateful for...

- "New found Freedom" – Bill K., Viet Vets, Hartford
- "A.A." – Sandi M., Saturday Morning Step Meeting, Newington
- "The fellowship of fellow alcoholics who are like family to me" – Rocky, Wethersfield

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

Submission Contest Winner:

For each Gratitude List submission given to the Alki-Line committee at the Area 11 convention, contributors received an entry into a drawing for a one-year subscription of the A.A. Grapevine. A random drawing determined the lucky subscription recipient. Congratulations, Sandi M.!



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.

Holiday Alkathons and Upcoming Events

For publication in the December/January edition of the Alki-Line, please submit the information by November 1 to

alkiline@ct-aa.org