



ALKI-LINE



TAKE ONE, IT'S FREE

The Area 11 A.A. Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 6 December 2022 – January 2023

Save Me a Seat

I remember a man, he used to save me a seat
 At the bar here in town just down the street
 One night he was pounding on the mahogany top
 Shouting and screaming "just why can't I stop?"
 I haven't seen him in ages last we spoke he had said
 "If I can't quit this habit I'll just end up dead"
 I smile and think maybe he's finally free
 And stumble out of that bar hiding misery
 Then I hear a voice like it's calling to me
 I look up as I fall, can't believe what I see
 That man, the one who used to save me a seat
 Laughing and smiling, seeming joyous and free
 The scene goes black, and I wake up in a bed
 Someone explaining "I don't know how you aren't dead"

The doctor comes in and he says, "here's the deal"
 There's a place that I know of that can help you heal
 It's beyond my powers as a doctor of health
 Your disease is a malady of spiritual wealth
 He hands me an address and I head out to leave
 I'm crying and sobbing "did he say disease?"
 I wipe my eyes and start walking to drink
 I pulled out that address and it made me think
 I know this place, it's next door to my bar
 That's where those drunks go who took it too far
 I stand outside, I look left and then right
 My gut starts turning, my nerves take flight

I enter this church next door to my bar
 It's damp and dim lit and smells like cigars
 I look around at all the laughter and cheer
 How are they happy, didn't desperation land them all here
 I went to sit down and felt a tap on my arm
 I turned around frightened "I mean you no harm"
 I know this guy, I breathed in relief
 He said, "I remember you man, I've saved you a seat"

– Mike R.

Happy Sober Holiday

The holidays are coming and they can be tricky for an alcoholic, especially for a newcomer who's never tried to abstain from booze before. It can be pretty lonely when, for most of our lives, like it says in the Big Book, "...drinking means conviviality, companionship and colorful imagination."

How true that was - in the beginning of my drinking career, anyway. It didn't stay that way, and it certainly didn't feel like that at the end. How could we have fun in the holiday season, starting with Thanksgiving, without liquor?

My first Christmas in A.A., I was about seven months sober and in the middle of a divorce. My kids all came over Christmas Eve, and I brought them home around 10 p.m. so they could sleep in their beds and wait for Christmas morning. Loneliness seeped in while driving away from their mother's house, and I wondered, "now what?" The thought of going back to my tiny apartment to watch tv or go to bed distressed me. I was restless, irritable, and discontented.

Then, I remembered the *Alki-Line* and the Alkathon announcements. I had a copy that said there was an all-nighter at the Cheshire Grange. I drove right over and, to my surprise, saw some people I knew! I settled in for a cup of coffee and some much-needed Fellowship. What a blessing!

You don't have to be alone or lonely when the holidays come. You have all of us!

– Dave W., Primary Purpose Group, 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!



Alkathons are Phenomenal

My name is Chris, and I am an alcoholic. I sit comfortably on my couch working on some A.A. service responsibilities and see an email about submitting to our *Alki-Line*. My first instinct is to delete it and move on. The better thought was to take something from the first action of my day when I asked God to help me.

I'm here to tell you, Alkathons are phenomenal! Over the years, my experience with them has varied tremendously. The very first one I went to was at a location that held the District Alkathon every year. I left a family holiday party a tad early to go and support my homegroup, and stayed to support my sponsor and several other friends' homegroups.

I had no idea at the time just how close so many of these people would become to me. That leg of our triangle representing the Fellowship has become an active part of life these days. Just last night, two fellow homegroup members and I drove close to an hour away to surprise and support a friend we met in a digital meeting during the peak of Covid. What an experience! I have not had such a strong hug since my sponsor was elected delegate at an assembly years ago.

– *Chris S., Happy, Joyous, and Free, Bethel*

Great

When I say, “have a great day,” this is what I mean:

- Go outside and embrace nature.
- Remember, whatever issues may come up, you know how to handle it.
- Everyone or everything comes into your life today for a reason, maybe to teach you something or maybe it's someone who might be holding a mirror up to you so if you are annoyed with them ask yourself why?
- Always respond with kindness to your loved ones as kindly as you would respond to strangers or coworkers.
- Today is only a collection of seconds, minutes, hours - but it's also full of opportunities, lessons, and blessings.

Embrace the GREAT today!

–*Siobhan M.*

Find Your Way

When the pathway isn't clear
And the light is failing;
When the pebbles turn to boulders
Step around;

When the footing isn't certain
And you stumble;
When you look up
And your ass is on the ground:

Just know that you are not the first who's fallen;
Just know you're not the last who'll try to stand;
Just know that you're not lost, though you have wandered;
Have faith that when you rise, you'll find your way.

– *Gary W., Danbury*

Holiday Plans

Thanks to A.A., I have the opportunity to make plans with friends and family. Some things that help me are:

- Make a plan
- Take my own car
- Park so I can get out
- Ask if there is stuff made with alcohol, like food or punch
- Know how much time you will spend there
- Call someone in the program to let them know what's going on
- Say a prayer and be spiritually fit
- Take my HP with me
- My wife is also in the rooms so if one of us says, “it's time” we leave

Hope this will help someone. It helps me time and time again.

– *Ed Jr.*

Serenity Prayer

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Thy will, not mine, be done.”

– *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 41*



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 Fall 2022

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.](#)

AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

AAGV – Podcasts

Visit www.aagrapevine.org/podcast for a new podcast each week! Tune in for the Ask-it Basket, trivia, recovery-related jokes, & more

Subscriptions and Literature

Visit store.aa.grapevine.org for 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!

The Gratitude List.

I am grateful for...

- “For my A.A. women friends who help me in my darkest days” – *Candace N., New Britain*
- “I am grateful each morning when I arise on the green side of the grass. Life is a fleeting existence in which to love and be loved; to sing and to listen; to dance and be still; and to show kindness.” – *Al. Di.*
- “I am grateful for the opportunities A.A. has given me to spend time with my family and friends sober. And it’s all due to the thanks of being involved in meetings and the service you all have offered me. Thank you.” – *Ed J D, Jr., Northford*

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



2022 CHRISTMAS ALKATHONS

Ansonia: Sahara Club, 101 Main Street

Sat., December 24, 5:00 pm through Sun., December 25, 5:00 pm

Branford: Italian American Club, 40 Hamre Lane

Sat., December 24, 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Bridgeport: St. George's Episcopal Church, 755 Clinton Ave

Sat., December 24, 6:00 pm - Sun., December 25, 6:00 pm

Cheshire: Cheshire Grange, 44 Wallingford Road

Sat., December 24, Noon-Midnight

Sun., December 25, 8:00 am-Noon

Danbury: Fellowship Center, 15 Great Pasture Road

Sat., December 24, 5:00 pm through Sun., December 25, 5:00 pm

Manchester: Nathan Hale School, 160 Spruce Street

Sat., December 24, 5:00 pm through Sun., December 25, 5:00 pm

New Milford: John Pettibone Community Center, 2 Pickett District Road

Sat., December 24, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Oakdale: Chesterfield Fire House, 1606 Hartford New London Turnpike (Rt. 85)

Sat., December 24, 4:00 pm – Sun., December 25, 12:00 pm

Ridgefield: Ridgefield Town Hall, 400 Main Street

Sat., December 24, 4:00-8:00 pm

Sun., December 25, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

2022 NEW YEAR'S ALKATHONS

Ansonia: Sahara Club, 101 Main Street

Sat., December 31, 5:00 pm - Sun., January 1, 5:00 pm

Cheshire: Cheshire Grange, 44 Wallingford Road

Sat., December 31, Noon – Sun., January 1, 1:30 am

Danbury: Fellowship Center, 15 Great Pasture Road

Sat., December 31, 5:00 pm through Sun., December 31, 5:00 pm

Newington: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1655 Main Street

Sat., December 31, 6:00 pm – Sun., January 1, 6:00 pm

Ridgefield: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 353 Main Street

Sat., December 31, 6:00 pm-midnight



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday Night Serenity 1st Annual Anniversary Dance

First Church of Middletown, 190 Court Street, Middletown

December 10, 2022, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Information: sundayniteserenity@yahoo.com

Storrs Noon Group 46th Anniversary Celebration

Storrs Congregational Church, 2nd Floor Ballroom, 2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs

January 1, 2023, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Information: storrsnoongroup@gmail.com

NECYPAA XXXII

New England Convention for Young People in A.A.

January 6-8, 2023, Omni Hotel, New Haven

Visit [NECYPAA XXXII](#) for information and registration.

NERAASA 2023

Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly

February 23-26, 2023, The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

Visit [2023 NERAASA](#) for information and registration.

We Want To Hear From You!

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.”

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

The Alki-Line has many service positions and would benefit significantly from more district representation.

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.

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