



Alki-line Needs Your Input: The newsletter for you, by you.

The Alki-line Committee is looking for feedback on the current Alki-line and input on improving the newsletter for the future. We are looking for all thoughts and comments on design, distribution, format and content. Questions are below, to complete the survey please visit here: [Alki-line Newsletter & Information Feedback \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

Thank you in advance for your time and service!

How often do you read Alki-line? [Never, Once, Sometimes, Often]

Is the Alki-line made available to groups you frequently attend? [Yes, No, Sometimes, Not sure]

Would you read the Alki-line more if it were emailed to you? [Yes, No, Not sure]

If you would like to receive an email digital copy, provide your email address.

If we were to rename the newsletter, what name would you suggest.

What Area 11 information would you like? [Articles about recovery by Area 11 A.A. members, Articles about service experience, members sharing their gratitude, Area 11 and district events]

Do you have any ideas or comments on what Area 11 information you would like?

What format would you like the information to be in? [Electronic via email, different information on the Area 11 website, Text, Podcast format]

Do you have any ideas or comments on other formats for information to be distributed?

Should the Alki-line be discontinued? [Yes, No]

Gift Of Desperation

My first functional savior. The only reason I came through the doors of A.A. was because I was about to lose my wife, son, job, and house. The reason for being on the verge of losing all I loved was my own inability to stop drinking and drugging. It was my **Gift Of Desperation** that brought me here.

At the time this desperation certainly didn't seem like a gift. Broken, spiritually defunct, and full of self loathing isn't the most comfortable state of being (as many and A.A. can attest). Yet this state of mind is what started me on this journey. Terrified of what I might lose, bewildered by how I had gotten to this point, frustrated that my own will had failed me, and despair not knowing a way out of this rut.

It was a **Group Of Drunks** who gave me my first shred of hope. They talked of a way out. A way to be freed from the bondage of my own making. I didn't even have to chew my whole leg off to get out of this trap. For the first time I can see what my problem was, and I was not alone. It was a **Group Of Drunks** who gave me hope.

My sponsor, a **Good Optimistic Dude**, gave his time freely. Meeting every week to read and work the steps. Time freely given in the name of recovery. Time freely given, a concept quite foreign to me, yet he assured me that it was probably helping him more than it was helping me. He was a **Good Optimistic Dude** who brought me through the steps so I may do so with others.

Good Orderly Direction seems a fitting God for me now. Working and practicing these principles in all my affairs. Not always an easy task yet the more I practice the more it becomes second nature. The change I've undergone in the past year is more vast than I could ever imagine.

Someday I hope to have **Grace On Demand**. Easy enough to receive from God himself. A little more difficult to dispense

from oneself. As long as I stay spiritually fit, I feel this day may come. May I never stop seeking, may I never stop learning, may I never stop growing, and may I always have the grace to work with others.

May your higher power be with you always, and his grace will be yours eternal.

Justin L.

Genie in my bottle

My hand caresses the bottle. I anticipate the coming pleasure of the drink. Come forth oh genie of my bottle. Cure my ails and set my life aright. I paid ten dollars for this pint of a genie – a one-hundred proof genie. As I call it forth from the magic bottle, my ails slip away. My day disappears only to have it reappear as I awaken to deep remorse for my sad life. Genie, where are you? Ah, I see you have brought a friend – another genie in a bottle ...

I reflect on those days of living pint-to-pint. Oh, what a light-weight I was. A pint would take me on my journey to unconsciousness. That's me, ten-bucks-a-day Al. It was a cheap price to pay to have my day disappear in a fog of booze. My genie was very comforting, or so I thought. My genie had a dual personality. It was kind and gentle at the beginning and then turned ugly as the bottle was drained. I did this, day after day – after all, the genie always said it wouldn't turn ugly again - a promise it never kept.

Then along came A.A. I confess that A.A. was the last stop for my train. While I was waiting (figuratively) at that last train station, along came a different genie. In fact, a room full of genies. (*I take liberties here because some of the people in the rooms don't realize that they are genies*). Magical people, who are accomplishing the unthinkable – living a sober life. But I digress.

I call forth my genie, not by raising a bottle to my lips – but a prayer. In particular, the Third Step prayer. At first this prayer frightened me. Giving myself over to a God I did not know - and did not understand. "What will become of me?" I often asked myself. Years later now, I think I know and trust my God. My Higher Power. A God of the Universe and nature. I still don't understand my Higher Power, but I am willing to trust it – and therein lies the magic.

The A.A. promises *is not* a wish list. Many are being "actualized" in my life. My genie is lazy, it wants me to work for the promises. There is a saying I live by: "Pray for the potatoes, but grab a hoe". That's what I mean about "actualizing" the things I want – work for them and make them "actual" (*Definition: Something actually received; real, as distinct from estimated*).

In reality, the work is not hard all the time – often it is easier than I think. For me it all began when I realized that the Twelve Steps were more than a recipe to stop drinking – they were a recipe for a new life in continued sobriety. My genie can be persnickety (*pain in the butt*) at times and I don't get what I expected to get – and this is where trust comes in. I trust my Higher Power to bring the A.A. Promises into my life when it is best for me to receive them.

I no longer summon my genie by rubbing a bottle against my lips - but in rubbing my lips together in prayer. One Day at a Time.

Al Di, Guilford

Steps, Traditions, and Concepts Eight & Nine

Step Eight: "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

Tradition Eight: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Concept Eight: "The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities."

Step Nine: "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Tradition Nine: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Concept Nine: “Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.”

SAVE THE DATE

Area 11 65th Annual Convention

Courage to Change
September 13-15, 2024
Sheraton Bradley Airport

Do you have the Courage to Change? Then join us at the 65th Area 11 Convention at the Sheraton Bradley. You will not want to miss the Sobriety Countdown and Comedians on Saturday night! Fellowship, Friendship, Great Speakers and lots of fun! Come join us.

area11convention@ct-aa.org

CSCYPAA 39

Connecticut State Convention of Young People in AA
With AI-ANON participation
November 29-December 1, 2024
Mystic Marriott, Groton
Registration now open - visit here: <http://cscypaareg.org/>

Area 11 A.A. Service Manual Meeting

Meets every second Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

Login Information (on Zoom):

Meeting ID: 853 6254 9241

Password: 162425

Reviewing the material in advance is strongly encouraged! Content to be covered: Chapter 1 (“The Group and its G.S.R.”), pages 7-12 in the 2021-2023 *A.A. Service Manual*—**access to the A.A. Service Manual as a PDF [here!](#)**

All A.A. members are welcome!

[Area 11 Service Calendar](#)

Save The Date

District 7

Meets every 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm in the Holy Trinity basement. Pizza will be served. Starting Feb 15, 2024

WWW.CT-AA.ORG

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 Winter 2023

Newsletter from the General Service Office: [F-36 Box 459 Winter 2023 \(aa.org\)](#)

Delegate’s Reports

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

WWW.AA.ORG

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!

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

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.

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

The Gratitude List.

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

A gift from God

For me, A.A. is a gift from God. I wasn't sure if I would succeed in this program, but after a few stumbles, things started turning around for me. I owe much gratitude to the other fellows at meetings, my sponsor and God.

Rocky

Gratitude List from Roundup 2024:

I'm grateful for the past that brought me to the present and to live with hope for the future.

Thomas N.

Having a car and a driver's license to go to Roundup.

Laura S.

I love everyone thanks to A.A. and God.

Joy P.

For today.

Anonymous

I'm grateful for A.A. and the true friendships I have formed.

Anonymous

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be of service to A.A. and be part of the process.

Anonymous

The smile on my face and gratitude in my heart thanks to God and the fellowship in A.A.

Anonymous