

# *THE 23 INFORMER*

PA Area 60, District 23 P.O. Box 1698 Greensburg, PA 15601

[www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org](http://www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org)

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## DISTRICT 23 SERVICE CONTACTS

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Alternate DCM - Tom W.....

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# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **DCM REPORT**

Hello again to my fellow AA's .  
First off, I would like to thank Randy H. for attending the third quarterly meeting in Penn Hills on August 9. Speaking of that, this was a very important meeting for Area 60 as a whole because we discussed the budget for next year. After a very informative workshop about this budget and our Seventh Tradition, we heard from the coordinators of Area 60 and DCM reports were given. After the break we came back and voted on the 2010 budget, which actually passed with a unanimous decision and no opposition.

Once again, here comes the time when I think we as a district need to ask ourselves: Are we taking our commitments to AA seriously or are we just doing enough to get by? I can only answer for myself, not anyone else. For me, I take my RESPONSIBILITIES in AA very seriously because I want the doors to remain open for those to come. Next, Tradition One states: "Our Common Welfare Should Come First; Personal Recovery Depends Upon AA Unity." In short, we stay whole, or AA dies. Unity is the most cherished quality our society has. This can be found on page 268 of the book entitled *The Language of the Heart*.

Finally, our next Area 60 meeting will be held on October 11, 2009, at the Comfort Inn in Penn Hills. This is our Fall Assembly, and for the record, every GSR's vote counts, so *please plan* to attend. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

In Love and Service,

*DCM Chris G.,  
Alt. DCM Tom W.*

## **ANSWERING SERVICE**

Please mail contributions to: Answering Service - District 23, PO Box 1698, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please make them payable to "Answering Service, District 23" and put your group name on any checks.

**TO ALL HOME GROUPS** – If your group has any changes, please contact the Editor, and it will be listed in the Informer. Also please notify Richard K. of any changes so that the Answering Service and PI/CPC will give out correct meeting information. Contact numbers are on the front of this newsletter.

*Please note that the Answering Service phone number has changed! We now have a toll-free number, thanks to your generous contributions. The number is listed on the front page of this newsletter. Pass it on!*

## **EVENT NEWS**

There was fantastic weather and a lot of people who showed up for the 2009 H & I Picnic!

District 23 H & I's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic was held Saturday, August 22, at St. Vincent Grove.

We also had a wonderful speaker! What more could we ask for?

Thanks to everyone for making this year's picnic a huge success.

*Rick M.,  
H & I Picnic Chair*



## GRAPEVINE

The AA Grapevine, our monthly meeting in print, is a very useful tool for your sobriety and can go wherever you go. The magazine is delivered every month in a plain wrapper, so if your neighbors don't already know you're an alcoholic, your Grapevine magazine won't tip them off!

The Grapevine is a perfect gift for sponsees and friends in the program. You can see me or your home group's Grapevine representative for subscription forms and pricing, which may have changed. Thank you!

*Stan K.,  
Grapevine Rep.*

### PI/CPC

Hello District 23! PI/CPC has made contact with the Greensburg *Tribune Review* to print information pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous. Every two months in the Health section, the Trib will list all of the towns where AA meetings are held (no dates or times), District 23's Web site address and the District 23 phone number. The first printing of this information will be in this month's *Tribune Review*. Also, the Laurel Highland's magazine has agreed to publish AA's 800 number in its publication.

PI/CPC has made contact with two high schools in the area, Mount Pleasant and Latrobe, and is planning on coming into those schools to talk to members of SADD and guidance counselors, and to speak about Alcoholics Anonymous. We will leave AA's new business card with the schools.

*PI/CPC Rep. Richard K.,  
and Leo H.*

## WEBMASTER REPORT

*New District 23 Webmaster reflects on AA and the Internet and his experiences with "Traditions in action"*

In October of 2001, the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous recognized a change in culture in the customs and practices of AA members worldwide. Many AA members had begun communicating our Message of Hope on the Internet to those suffering from alcoholism. This was quite controversial, though the AA conference had recognized the Internet as a new communication medium in 1997. It was not until it was seen in the Big Book that the issue began to be laid to rest. Once again, AA had responded in sober acceptance of an ever-changing world.

It was on my eighth anniversary, at the end of October 1996, that I successfully configured an Internet Relay Chat program called Pirch to hook into a loose network of university routers to access what was known as the Undernet. I had read rumors about people in AA gathering in what was known as a "chat room."

When I found it, at first I was greeted warmly but within minutes my anniversary was out and my greeting turned into quite an enthusiastic fanfare of ASCII art that rained confetti down across the screen along with other artwork that did strange things to my name which I was supposed to interpret as hugs and handshakes. Between these outbursts of 16-color madness, "Aloha slaps Sparks about the head with a wet trout," would flash across the screen. A script! I was Sparks and I quickly learned to reciprocate. The revelry continued.

*(continued on page 4)*

### Editor's note ...

The deadline for submissions to the 23 *Informer* is 12 pm the Sunday before each GSR meeting. Submissions received after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you for your consideration!

*Sally B.*

*Editor, 23 Informer*

## WEBMASTER REPORT

*(continued from page 3 ...)* Just as quickly as it had started, the attention turned from me to a new name that had just popped onto the list and just like a meeting we all turned around to greet the new person -- except this one was in trouble.

The fish and confetti dropped to the floor as we responded with our primary purpose. Our anonymity and the newcomers' were protected by nicknames. We were on a new frontier with only our Traditions and a good heart to guide us.

Although the 'net was free, it was also public. There was a concept of persistence that took shape as Web sites started to be put up as 24/7 business fronts. On the chat boards, the only records kept were private records. When the people disbanded, it was like a meeting. Poof ... it is gone; there is no persistence. Our District Web site is persistent and it is public ... *very* public so a bit about my public AA work might be of interest:

Like most, the majority of my AA work is inside the rooms and not at the public level. I do bring some experience to the table, though. When the Westmoreland County Jail was being built, I began to initiate public contact to get us in there. It took a year while they looked for ulterior motives and security problems. AA's Traditions and ways were as much on trial as myself. After getting us in, I did another year of chairing.

Nothing expands the meaning of the Traditions like having to put them in action.

Prior to the jail, a local rehab had been in contact with New York and our Area had concluded that we needed to try to educate them about our Traditions. This was my first real action in public. I was taken under the wings of a couple of ladies at the Area level. I had attended Traditions workshops for GSR's, and I had also ventured to one of the Post Conference Assemblies where I was huddled off to the side to learn the spiritual depth of the concept of anonymity, as told by people whose combined years of sobriety and service did not seem a coincidence.

I would not have come this far if it had not been that our District was new and that we had little clue to the structure of AA. It seemed to hang around us, but in a disconnected fashion which many perceived as a detrimental bit of organization. We wanted to become a part of something bigger than ourselves, but we hardly understood it. Bringing it back was my job as your DCM and before that your Alternate in the early nineties. In those early days, the spirit of AA at most local levels seemed lost as we argued about money and authority. Nevertheless, as my duties pushed me to visit the larger parts of our fellowship, the spiritual aspects came through clearer and clearer, and the spiritual principles behind them became a source of something that began to do what I could not do for myself.

I hope that with those principles, our Web guidelines, and your help, I can serve on another frontier that is new to me.

*In Service,*

*Bob H.,  
District 23 Webmaster  
Greensburg Monday Night Big Book Study*