

# THE 23 INFORMER

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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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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## DCM REPORT

Hello District 23,

Now that we have the holidays behind us, my hope is that mostly everyone made it through them sober. I was able to attend the last quarterly meeting in 2016 and was amazed at what goes on there. I was able to meet some of the outgoing officers and that of the incoming ones that I'll be working with to help keep all of our home group voices heard. And yes I did not come home empty handed. I have nine items that are in my report and the next meeting is January 22, 2017 starting at 9:00 am. The meeting will start out with a workshop for DCM's and incoming officers to help us make smooth transition.

These are the 9 items I bring back to us:

1. The next 2 annual conferences will be held in Rye, New York
2. The NERF conference is in June no cost for registration.
3. Area 60 sent a nomination for Trustee @ large, it was past Delegate Eyvette N. It was received and acknowledged by GSO.
4. The new corrections video is for sale.
5. The new public service announcement from GSO is called "Doors". It was viewed 80,000 times to more than 50,000,000 people.
6. Net profit was up over \$800,000.00 more than anticipated at AAWS.
7. There was a budget loss of \$600,000.00 @ GSO. Donations were up a bit.
8. There was a strategic plan memo sent DCM's in 2016, about the issues AA facing. I have not had a opportunity to review it as of yet. If there's more to report on this memo I'll bring it up at the next monthly in new business.
9. Area 60 had literature sales of \$6,000.00 in 2016

And remember a home group's voice can't be heard if its GSR is not here at this meeting to voice or vote its groups conscience.

So let's have a good start to 2017 by welcoming in your new officers and coordinators or the next two years.

In peace, love and service,  
District 23 DCM  
Edward S.

## **Interested in a service position?**

### **H & I service positions available.**

The H & I meetings are held at Christ United Church  
100 Lincoln Avenue, Youngwood at 10:30 AM on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Also there **open coordinator positions at our District..** The GSR meeting is held on the first Friday of the month in Jeannette at The First Presbyterian Church, 314 Bullitt Ave. Jeannette at 6:30pm.

## In AA's First Five Years

Lois W., wife of AA's co-founder, Bill W., recalls the time in AA when there were few members and no Big Book.

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In the early days of AA things were really different. For five years there was no Big Book. The only way to communicate with other people was to go and tell them, so that's what we did. Of course, all of the meetings were held in people's homes, the homes of those who were lucky enough to have them. Anybody who had one made it wide open to whomever the boys brought in. Our houses, Dr. Bob's in Akron and ours in Brooklyn were just filled with drunks, either drinking, or stopped temporarily or well on the way to real sobriety. Yes, AA was quite different in those days for many reasons. One was that there were no people in AA except those who had gone to the very bottom. Only these would listen to the story that one drunk was telling another. When AA first started, before there was a book, it was more anonymous than it is now, because even the Fellowship was without a name. AA didn't have a name until the book was written. Before that it was just a bunch of drunks trying to help each other, a bunch of nameless drunks. They had to be worked with over and over; families and everybody did what they could to help

There were many, many sad things that happened, many very humorous things, and inspirational things, too. Several are coming to mind right now. Bill, as you know, came from Vermont and someone sent him some maple syrup from there. It came in a whiskey bottle. One of the boys saw this attractive container in the kitchen and he was so drunk at the time that he gulped the whole bottle of syup, thinking it was whiskey.

We had a rule that no one could come into the house when he was drinking. One night one of the boys came home drunk. We wouldn't let him in so he pried open the coal chute and slid into the cellar. Since he was very fat it was surprising that he could slide down it, yet somehow he made it. But this same fat man did get stuck one night in the washtubs. He lived in the basement apartment. Old city houses used to have stationary tubs in the kitchen. He thought he'd try to take a bath in one. But after getting in he couldn't get out so one of us (and I think it was I) had to pull him out. There were many other things...a man committed suicide in our house after having pawned our dress clothes, left over from more prosperous days. These included Bill's dress suit and my precious evening cape. We have never owned such articles again.

AA was always thrilling. The families were included in all of the meetings; wives and parents (there weren't many alcoholic women then), and the children came too. The children were vitally interested in everything that went on. They would inquire about all the members and want to know how they were. They'd learn the Twelve Steps and really try to live by them. I don't think youngsters can be too young to be thrilled by the AA program and be helped by it.

One of the first women who came in was the ex-wife of a friend of Bill's. She had been in Bellevue and had come from there to our house. At that time there was a wonderful man - I think he was the fourth or fifth AA - who was trying to start a group in Washington, D.C. This woman went down to help him and she stayed sober for quite a long time. Then she married a man they were trying to bring onto the program. He really didn't go along with the idea himself and used to say to her every once in a while, "Florence, you look so thirsty." And so she did something about that, Florence disappeared. Everybody looked for her everywhere and couldn't find her. After a couple of weeks they found her in the morgue.

At that time each group used to visit every other group. New York members would go to New Jersey or Greenwich, Philadelphia or Washington or even Cleveland or Akron. Those were the groups I recall were in existence in the first five years. If anybody had a car a bunch of us would pile in and we'd go wherever we knew there was a meeting. Families were just as much a part of AA as the alcoholics and we did feel we belonged. But after a while the AA's thought that they should have an occasional meeting - at least one every week - of just alcoholics so that they could really get down to business. When this occurred the wives thought they'd meet together, too, at the same time. At first these little gatherings of wives didn't have any particular purpose. Sometimes we'd play bridge and sometimes we'd gossip about our husbands. Then a few of us began to see that we really needed the AA program just as much as the alcoholics. The famous case of my throwing a shoe at Bill started me wondering about myself and realizing that I needed to live by the Twelve Steps just as much as he did. He was getting way ahead of me. I always thought of myself as being the moral mentor in the house, but Bill, who never was a mentor, was certainly growing spiritually while I was standing still. Or perhaps there is no standing still - if I wasn't going ahead, I must be going backwards. I decided I'd better live by the Twelve Steps. Annie S. and a number of other people had come to the same conclusion. So, the AA program in every principle. I want to thank AA's so very much for showing us the way. Without your leading us whenever we visited another group, we would tell the wives and families how we found that we, too, needed to live by the Twelve Steps of AA. Little groups of wives and families all over the country began to feel the same need for something to help overcome their frustrations and help them become integrated human beings again.....

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# District 23 info

**SAVE THE DATE**

## **IMPORTANT ADDRESSES** **For Home groups mailing** **contributions:**

**District 23**  
PO Box 1698  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
For contributions to the district, please make checks payable to District 23 and put the group name on check.

**Area 60 Treasurer**  
PO Box 266,  
Monroeville, PA 15146.  
(Make check payable to "Area 60 Treasurer.")

**General Service Office (GSO)**  
P.O. Box 459  
New York, NY 10163  
(Make check payable to "AA World Services, Inc.")

**District 23 Answering Svc**  
PO Box 1698  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Please make checks payable to Answering Svc and put your group name on check



**AREA 60**  
**Getaway Weekend**  
**April 1-2, 2017**  
<http://wpaarea60> for  
more info

Stay tuned for more  
information:  
**NERF conference**  
**Northeast Regional Forum**  
**June 2-4th, 2017**

### **TO ALL HOME GROUPS:**

If you wish to see your group's anniversary or other special event listed, please submit to the Editor no later than the first Monday of the month to have it appear in that month's Informer. My contact info is on the front of the newsletter.

([editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org](mailto:editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org))

Also, if your group has any changes, please contact the Editor, and it will be listed in the Informer.

