

THE 23 INFORMER

PA Area 60, District 23 P.O. Box 1698 Greensburg, PA 15601
www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org



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DISTRICT 23 SERVICE CONTACTS

<u>DCM</u> – Lisa V.....	dcm@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Alt. DCM</u> – Margie S.....	altdcm@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Secretary</u> – Adam B.	sec@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Treasurer</u> – Vince P	treas@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Grapevine Rep</u> – Ed S.....	grape@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Archivist</u> – Ralph D.....	arch@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>H & I Coordinator</u> – Ron Y.	h_i@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Webmaster</u> – Lisa F.....	webmaster@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Alt. Webmaster</u> – John E.....	altwebmaster@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Literature</u> – Andy S.....	lit@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Special Needs</u> – Bernie	needs@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Bridging the Gap</u> – Karen C.....	bridg@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Public Info/CPC</u> – John H.....	picpc@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Answering Svc</u> – Barry G... ..	answer@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>23 Informer</u> –Colleen Z.....	editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org

Toll-Free 24-Hour Hotline: 866-851-8459

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DCM REPORT

Happy February, everybody! Or should I say, "This too shall pass?" Even February has its high points. I am looking forward to the Ligonier Midwinter Spiritual Roundup on Feb. 14-16th at the Antiochian Village. It is a wonderful spiritual battery recharger; I highly recommend it! Flyers are circulating at district meetings and there is still time to register.

Last week, I attended the Greensburg Group's 66th (wow!) anniversary meeting. It was a great time, as usual. Many thanks to the home group members for being such gracious hosts.

The upcoming event I really want to talk about is the Area 60 Getaway Weekend. It will be held on the weekend of April 4-6th this year. I am interested to know how many GSR's, coordinators, or officers want to attend. Once I get a count, we can see how much money it will cost, then the home groups will need to let their GSR's know by our March meeting whether they are willing to approve the funds from District 23 to pay for their attendance. People can either choose to stay the entire weekend or just drive down for the day on Saturday and pay only registration (which can also be funded). Anyone that commits to attend will be expected to follow through, barring emergency.

It is a really helpful, fun and educational event for all trusted servants. The pre-conference assembly is the culmination on Sunday, April 6th. All GSR's are strongly urged to attend, as this is a voting assembly. That means that all GSR's (or alternates, if the GSR is absent) will participate in any voting. This assembly sends the Area's group conscience to the General Service Conference via the Area 60 Delegate shortly thereafter.

Also next month, we will have a Concept 7 workshop at 6 pm before the regular meeting.

Lisa V.

DCM

H&I REPORT

Greetings fellow travelers.

A couple of brief bits of info. H&I is looking for a new Pink Can Treasurer. If interested please come to our next meeting, Saturday the 8th. Also, the Old Timers Speaker meeting and Spaghetti dinner is coming soon. Saturday, March 29th to be exact. More info and flyers for the event will be floating around shortly.

Please continue to donate any conference approved literature to our literature drive. Our Opportunities in Service forms are always available; please volunteer to

carry the message into any of the facilities that we cover. We are truly grateful and may we continue to work together to help save those alcoholics who still suffer and can't get to a meeting without all of our help. Without you we would not be able to provide literature and meetings to carry that message of hope.

H & I is in need of help. H & I is in need of help. We need AA members willing to serve as coordinators for some of our facilities. We also need 1 time speakers and home groups to take meetings into facilities and help us carry that 12 step message. The facilities which are in need of coordinators are: the Torrance State Hospital Monday meeting, BHS and the Westmoreland County Prison Friday meeting from 6 to 8pm. The facilities which need a one-time speaker or a home group to carry the message are Gateway in Greensburg, Torrance, Westmoreland County Prison (men and women), BHS and the Juvenile Detention Center. If interested in serving, ask your SPONSOR then contact the chair or coordinator of that facility.

Ron Y

H&I Committee Chair

PI/CPC REPORT

Mission Statement: Working together, PI committees convey public information to the general public, including the media. The purpose of CPC in cooperation with the professional community is to better distribute AA information to those in contact with alcoholics through their professions. Like all of AA the primary

We are encouraging fellow A.A.'s to come to our next meeting. get involved and as we grow we will be better equipped to carry the message. So come on out and have some fun.

Next meeting: Jan 21, 2014 6:00pm. @ 1st. Presbyterian Church 300 N. Main St. Greensburg. (Ya know, right before the Tues beginners meeting.)

God Bless,

John H, Jillian D, Ron L, Todd V.

PI/CPC Committee

YOUR PAGE

“Hi, my name is Jak and I’m an alcoholic.”

My sobriety date is December 29, 2000 and I got sober three months shy of my 21st birthday. One day at a time, I have never had a legal drink. Alcoholics Anonymous has saved my life, and given me my life back, for which I am eternally grateful.

At the age of 16, I walked into my first AA meeting feeling like a reject, sick and tired of being sick and tired. I hated who I was and came to A.A. to save a friendship, and to save myself from the person I was becoming. But at that time I was not ready. I didn’t think I had a drinking problem because I was unlike all those “serious” drinkers I’d heard about. I never hid alcohol all over the house, or had the shakes, I was never a blackout drinker, I never lost any jobs or skipped school due to my drinking. I believed that drinking never led me to anything serious (except for smoking pot on a daily basis or experimenting with other substances). I was what people would call a “functioning alcoholic.”

Yes, I loved drinking and the effects of alcohol, but how could I be an alcoholic? I was way too young! I was only 17! I remember reading in the Doctor’s Opinion that alcoholics “cannot start drinking without developing the phenomena of craving.” There it was in black and white...I simply could not start drinking without wanting more. But I was a teenager that never had any serious consequences from my drinking. So how could I be an alcoholic? Evidently, I had not suffered enough, but that first meeting planted the seed of sobriety in my head. It would not do much growing until I finally returned to A.A. at 20 years old.

After a long night of drinking, I was headed over to a friend’s place for some after-partying. As I staggered along on the 6th St. Bridge in Pittsburgh I just wanted to get back to my friends’ place. Then out of nowhere I saw blue and red flashing lights behind me. Immediately my heart stopped and I sobered up. I remember praying and asking God to get me out of this precarious situation. I vividly recall telling God that I would quit drinking for good, and that I would start going to church if He would just get me out of this “little jam.” I was then brought into the police station and was told to call my Mom. I picked up that

5,000-pound phone and *SLOWLY* dialed each number anticipating that the police officer would stop me and to let me go instead. The answering machine picked up. “Mom. Pick up. Pick up please...I’m in jail.”

A few days later, I went to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and afterwards an old-timer welcomed me. He said that he was glad that I came, but because I had announced myself as an addict, and because I was so young, he told me to try the ‘other fellowship.’ So I decided to give my way another shot, mostly because AA didn’t “cure” me right away, and I wanted to drink again. *Badly.*

I continued to drink for the next couple of months. Then one day my best friend from Virginia called me asking if he and some friends of his could visit me in Pittsburgh. They were coming to see a concert on New Years Eve. Despite the fact that I wasn’t a fan of the band, I said of course, I would always make time for him. Along with he being 2 years sober, his girlfriend who was 17 and had about 18 months sober, his best friend who was 18 and 2 ½ years sober, and this 15-year-old hippie who had 18 months. You’re kidding me! There were ALL my own age-under the age of 21 and were...sober?!? I could hardly believe it! We ended up going to the concert, and for the first time in my life, I was enjoying myself without drugs or alcohol! I was living in the moment! After the concert, we started talking about how young they were, about how they were sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and how happy they were. I wanted what they had. For the first time, I was able to relate to them. I thought to myself that if they could do it, then I certainly could do it too! I moved to Northern Virginia to chase that sobriety. On January 8th, 1999, I had my last drink. I picked up my first 24 hour coin and I remember crying, asking for help, and being so scared because I could never imagine myself taking a sober breath.

Young People’s AA got me sober. I was going to meetings 7 days a week, calling people for rides and taking suggestions like “get a big book, get a home group, get a sponsor, and most importantly, don’t drink under any and all circumstances...NO MATTER WHAT.” I got to

YOUR PAGE

meetings early, helped clean up and tear down, and we fellowshiped after the meeting, mostly at diners until 10 or 11 o'clock. Then we would go over to my buddy's house and play cards, video games, listen to music and talk until all hours of the night, sometimes until 5 or 6am. I got involved in service work, was working the steps and building a relationship with my higher power. I started to grow and mature in Alcoholics Anonymous, and I slowly started to love myself.

I went to my first Young People's Conference in 1999. It was the Virginia State Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous in Virginia Beach and I was nine months sober. I remember when we got to the hotel where the conference was being held and I saw a lot of young people smoking cigarettes, talking, laughing and having a good time. During the conference there were marathon AA meetings every hour on the hour on different topics ranging from the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions, to sex in sobriety, as well as denial, acceptance and so on. On both Friday and Saturday nights there was a main speaker meeting: "The Main Event". Before the main meetings there was a lot of chanting-the enthusiasm and energy level was through the roof! It was infectious. Most importantly, the message of recovery was being passed along. That weekend there were marathon meetings, panels about sobriety, as well as dancing, jam sessions, and lots of talking and laughing and newfound friendships.

In December 2013, I celebrated 13 years of *continuous* sobriety! AA gave me that opportunity. I fell in love with Young People's A.A. because I saw people my own age getting and staying sober-working the steps and the traditions. I was fortunate that I had stopped in time. I saw my bottom before it hit me.

A young person is defined as anyone who is young at heart and has room to grow. I have a lot of growing to do, and thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous, God, and the steps, I have the tools to do so-but I also hope I never grow up.

Jak L.
Irwin, Pennsylvania

Editor's Corner

If you would like to see **your** article in next month's newsletter, please submit via the following email link:

editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org

(Your submission can be kept anonymous if you so wish.....)

In love & serenity,

Colleen Z.

Editor

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)

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

Thanks,

Colleen Z.

Editor