



# THE 23 INFORMER



April 2017

Issue #229

## DISTRICT 23 SERVICE CONTACTS

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# Committee Reports

## DCM Report

Hello District 23,

There's much to report and as I usually do, I will open with a message. "If you want to be heard, send someone. If you want to know what's going on, send someone. The key words here are "Send" and "Someone."

Of the reporting districts, we were once again the best represented. We had at voting time, besides myself, our alt. DCM, 7 GSR's, 2 alt. GSR's and two AA members. For a grand total of 13 people from our district. I felt our numbers were the best represented of all the districts, yet know we can be better. I'm content with how we were represented.

On the panel of Growth, your DCM gave a 4-page speech on "Diversity in AA". Let me say this was the elephant in the room speech. As I spoke on this topic mostly everyone's eyes were as big as silver dollars, especially at the end during the question and answer session. I was saddened to learn, yet not surprised, even in dominantly African American communities that the number of them actively attending meetings is, few to none. We have a lot of work to do here, on the grounds of diversity in general.

In the presentation, Finance: The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, a common occurring number kept sticking out for me, \$7.14. In other words, that's the average cost per member GSO spends per year in AA. Remember, when we all were active alcoholics we spent more than this to feed our alcoholism in a year. We spend more than \$7.14 in a week buying lattes before a meeting we attend. So, beginning with me, my monthly contribution to GSO will be \$10.00 per month. It's the least I can do for a program that's saving my life daily. Please consider that.

While at the getaway weekend, I really liked the round table discussions that we had. The DCMs round table was very interesting as we all shared ideas on how to problem solve, help keep our districts from running into tradition problems, helping that of all our meetings with any problem they may have. We discussed helping the GSR's present more information to their home groups other than just reporting about when their next meeting will be. As a DCM of a large district, I reached out for help and received plenty of good suggestion from everyone.

Here's how the voting went at the getaway weekend: Policy and Admission: Item J "Consider a request to add a "YPAA subcommittee to the service structure." Vote was for more consideration.

Item H "Consider a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the general service conference." Vote was for more consideration.

Item G "Consider a request that the General Service Conference be held in New York City every other year." No action taken.

Item D "Consider request that anonymity-protected digital final conference be published, starting with the 67 General Service Conference. Vote was for additional consideration to make both copies on anonymity.

Public Information: All items were no action to be taken, for all items are just to be reviewed. For there was nothing to be voted on.

Literature: Item A "Consider request for revisions to the pamphlet "questions and Answers on Sponsorship" Vote was For No Action to Be Taken.

Item B "consider request to retire the pamphlet Too Young." The vote was retiring Too Young.

Item J "consider request for literature and/or language. The vote was to take no action.

Item K "Discuss request for a revision to the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group." The vote was to take no action.

I also found out that use of the spirit of rotation is in place for a reason. This so that no one person can have any influence or derive any power from it as I have come to understand it in layman's terms. So, if there is a position that is left open due to a person stepping down in the spirit of rotation, we as a district should pick up that position until a qualified person is found. For instance, we have two people who have severed their positions well. Is it fair to hold anyone back from other service work that can be done elsewhere in A.A.? I firmly believe that the answer is "No." I questioned this at the getaway weekend. And I was told to look at The Principal of Rotation. (cont. on page 3)

This weekend was exactly what was needed to redouble my efforts to do this job I was given and to serve this district better in the coming future. I was sent to learn and have been given more spiritual tools in which I'll be using not to my advantage, yet to our advantage.

Our trustees are both well committed to their jobs. First our Class A trustee, Peter L., is very committed to informing the professional community at large. He dives in with the enthusiasm of a kid discovering candy for the first time. He uses tactics to fully answer and assist anyone with questions. There's also our GSO staff, Trustee-At-Large, Bob W. He earned his seat in the A.A. service structure and in the rooms as well. His defiance for all things but alcohol left me hanging on every word in his lead. From being told no that he couldn't do certain things when he was drinking, he brings to his position of being trustee at large. His slideshow the next morning of everywhere A.A. has sent him is amazing. I learned it is unlawful to have an A.A. meeting anywhere in Iran. Some smuggle the materials they have there. It is a risk they feel is worth the taking. Also, the call themselves "men with no names."

Once again it been an honor and a privilege to go and serve this district of ours. Thank you!!!!

In love and service,

Edward S.

## YOUR WORDS....If you have a story that you would like to share or an experience send to the editor.

Anonymously submit if you wish!

### Report from the Editor

Live The Spirit: A retreat experience, all areas welcome

I was invited at the last GSR meeting to attend the Live the Spirit annual retreat. Held at Bruceton Mills, WV at Chestnut Ridge Campground, a beautiful woods, I really felt close to my Higher Power and got to know people from different areas. Many were from the Uniontown, Latrobe, and Mt. Pleasant areas, of all ages and backgrounds.

As we do at events like Cook Forest, we got to hear a wonderful AA lead and an AI-Anon lead that showed what real spirituality, love, and service truly is. Liz W. explained "We would like to have more people from the Greensburg area attend next year...it was co-founded by Neal C. and Andy B. in 2000. It's a great opportunity to fellowship with others in recovery." I was happy to see many old timers who knew my sponsor and home group, in addition to finding new people to add to my growing "We." We will share more updates closer to the time next year, but I am truly thankful to be invited out of my comfort zone to hear the experience, strength and hope of others, so that I too can walk with my Higher Power more deeply and see the "spirit" alive in others. By spirit, I mean those that live just for today, no matter what they believe and truly love and serve others as their program has taught them.

-With gratitude and love, Erin W. Informer Editor

### **Editor's Report continued**

*From the July 1990 Grapevine:*

#### **Deeper Than Words**

"Everyone must agree that we AAs are unbelievably fortunate people; fortunate that we have suffered so much; fortunate that we can know, understand, and love each other so supremely well--these attributes and virtues are scarcely of the earned variety. Indeed, most of us are well aware that these are rare gifts which have their true origin in our kinship born of a common suffering and a common deliverance by the grace of God. Thereby we are privileged to communicate with each other to a degree and in a manner not very often surpassed among our nonalcoholic friends in the world around..."

-Bill W.



# Important information & Save the dates

## **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



10<sup>th</sup> Annual H&I Old timers Spaghetti Dinner—May 6—St. Michael's Church—Cedar Street Exit on Route 30—begins at 12:00—three speakers—raffle, 50/50 - Cost is \$2.00--\$1.00 for dinner \$1.00 for church – good food and fellowship—Please join us!!!!

\*Any donations for raffles or volunteering would be appreciated, covered dishes welcome. Bring a newcomer or a friend. We look forward to seeing you.

*Pam H.*  
*HNI*

### **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.

### **KISS Women's Anniversary**

(Keep It Simple Sister)

Will be having their anniversary Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Speaker, food and fellowship. Men are welcome to attend the anniversary and it's at St. Michael's (Cedar St. exit, Rt. 30). Contact any homegroup members for more information or Erin W. Covered dishes are welcome, hope to see you!



