

THE 23 INFORMER

July 2015- Issue #208



PA AREA 60, District 23

P.O. Box 1698 Greensburg, PA 15601

www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org

DISTRICT 23 SERVICE CONTACTS

<u>DCM</u> – Margie S–	dcm@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Alt. DCM</u> – Leslie E.	altdcm@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Secretary</u> – Tim G.....	sec@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Treasurer</u> – Cliff F.....	treas@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Grapevine Rep</u> – Lisa L.....	grape@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Archivist</u> – Ralph D.....	arch@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>H & I Coordinator</u> – Bernie S.....	h_i@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Webmaster</u> – Colleen Z.....	altwebmaster@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Literature</u> – Andrew H.	lit@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Special Needs</u>	needs@aa-swestpadist23.
<u>Bridging the Gap</u> – Karen C.	bridg@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Public Info/CPC</u> – Lisa V.....	picpc@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>Answering Svc</u> –Jay L.	answer@aa-swestpa-dist23.org
<u>23 Informer</u> –Monica C –.....	editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DCM REPORT

Greetings Fellow AA's:

Our meeting on June 26 will have a serious vote involving our website and whether or not it is prudent to operate our own website when Area 60, and the Central Office websites have many of the same features.

I am hopeful that all the groups had vigorous discussion within their home groups about this issue, and how it affects AA as a whole, not just how it affects our individual home groups.

The group conscience is a very important component of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our second Tradition in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions states: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are trusted servants, they do not govern."

How does this differ from a majority vote? For one thing, it is the AA tradition to strive for "substantial unanimity." This means that a vote should carry by a two thirds majority. Although some groups may only do this on what is deemed a very important matter, it is pretty much the general rule at district and area meetings.

How do we get to substantial unanimity? As alcoholics, how do we come to most important decisions? Generally, it is through spirituality, prayer, and in the case of the group conscience listen respectfully to all sides of the issues, being willing to admit we may not have all the answers, and listening carefully to the minority opinion, which has been known to often change entire votes but we should remember that as often as the minority vote can be right, it can also be wrong.

The group conscience is truly "principles before personalities" in action.

It is my prayer that everyone is voting from the stand point of an informed group conscience.

In love and service,

Margie

Margie S.
District 23 DCM

ALT. DCM

Seems like it has only been a minute since we last saw each other and I wrote for last month's newsletter, yet here we are again. Time sure flies by rather quickly these days. I would love to say I have been running night and day being of optimum service to District 23 ... Since this is an honest program ... I can't say that. What I can say is that I had the opportunity to make it to a couple of meetings I don't usually attend ... one of them being out of town at the Onala Club downtown. If you ever have the opportunity or perhaps looking for something different, make a couple phone calls, a road trip and meet other alcoholics ... Great Experience!!

A couple months ago was the Get Away Weekend (again many thanks for allowing me to attend). One of the things that occurs during that weekend are "panel's". These are discussion groups regarding the items of agenda that are up for review and/or vote in New York. The groups then make a suggestion to our Delegate (George) as to how we (as trusted servants of Area 60) feel New York could best serve "us" as a whole. George represented Area 60 in New York. He will be giving us his report on Sunday June 28th in Penn Hills at the Comfort Inn, all members of the fellowship are welcome. Our district has been asked to be greeters for this event. Please join us at 8:30am, show up and support District 23. I can not wait, I have not yet had the opportunity to sit on a panel, have the information go to New York and see the outcome. Fabulous way to see this amazing program in action, ever changing with the time, yet still the same basic principle. Passing on what has been so freely giving to us all.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote "what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to lies within us". I am a firm believer that alone I can only do so much, together WE have the ability to do anything. I have been in service in this amazing program a little over 3½ years. All positions have given me a great sense of fulfillment, an opportunity to use the good, bad and ugly life experiences to benefit others. Service positions are always available, from the individual group level all the way to the Area. Talk to your sponsor, get involved. I can not begin to express my gratitude for this incredible experience and opportunity to serve. Thank You all for your support.
In loving service and appreciation.

Leslie E
alt DCM

COMMITTEE REPORTS

H & I REPORT

Dear AA friends,

The annual H & I family picnic is going to be held on August 22, 2015 at St. Vincent Grove in Latrobe, PA. As always, there will be children's games, great food, raffles, and a speaker to wrap the day up. All are welcome to attend this fun event. Any donations are welcomed to use in our raffle that day.

The H & I committee can always use volunteers. The Juvenile Detention Center is in need of young volunteers to take meetings in on Sundays two times a month. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our various meetings, please contact me or any other H & I committee member.

Thank you to Steve B and Charles B. for stepping up to fill our vacant coordinator positions. Steve will act as alternate chair, and Chuck will act as Juvenile Detention Coordinator.

Thanks,
Bernie S.
H&I chairperson

It's Up to You

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make the difference,
You see, it's up to you
... AUTHOR UNKNOWN ...

**YOUR PAGE.....SEND IN A
STORY TO SHARE....
CAN BE ANONYMOUS IF YOU
WISH!!!!**

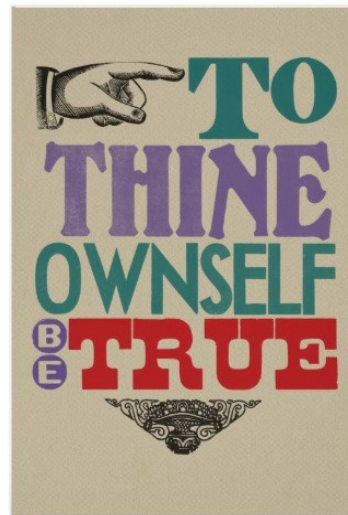
Earlier this year I began a new journey in recovery serving as Area 60 Corrections Coordinator (alternate)...As I reviewed the relevant literature my mind began to reflect upon my past consequences at the depths of my active alcoholism. I was an inmate in county jail. Since local AA members were bringing in a meeting I was too ashamed to go and face them. Whenever mail call time came I would become very depressed if no letters came from family.

Unbearable

loneliness set in and I isolated. Many alcoholics on the inside experience the same thing and drink the very same day that they are released only to find themselves back in prison again and again...

Unless this relapse cycle is broken many will continue to suffer indefinitely. This does not have to happen. We can each help at the individual, group and district levels. To me this means awareness, willingness and action. Awareness is as simple as having literature available at meetings such as Bridging the Gap, Pre-Release Contact and Corrections Correspondence... I have been to many different meetings in Southwestern Pennsylvania and seem to notice a trend of this literature not displayed at the meetings... If each district were to ask themselves one simple question then this might become less prominent... that question is simply; Is our District being of maximum service to our fellow alcoholics behind prison walls? If the answer is NO or WE DON'T KNOW then please do not hesitate to contact the Area 60 Corrections Coordinator (Ron C.) or myself for assistance.

Yours in recovery and service,
Ken E., Area 60 Corrections Coordinator (Alt)



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

BACK TO BASICS

Irwin Group

**21st Anniversary
Celebration Meeting
July 16, 2015**

**617 Main St.
Irwin, PA 15642**

**6:00 Coffee/Cake/Fellowship
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Speaker**



OTHER EVENTS **UPCOMING**

**2015 International Convention of
Alcoholics Anonymous**
July 2-5, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia

Irwin Back To Basics 21st Anniversary
July 16, 2015
4th Annual Ohio Woman's Conference
August 28-30, 2015
75th Laurel Highlands Conference
October 16-18, 2015

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.

**HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**