



DISTRICT 27

TO THINE
OWNSELF
BE TRUE

JUNE 2023

SUBMISSIONS: SOBERJIMMYOUNG@GMAIL.COM PHONE: 352-210-3137

WEBSITE; aadistrict27@gmail.com

STEP SIX

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

A COINCIDENCE IS A MIRACLE IN WHICH GOD CHOOSES TO REAIN ANONYMOUS

North Central Florida Intergroup

2632 NW 43 ST. Suite A-111 Gainesville, FL 32606

Office Hours Mon-Fri: 2-5 Sat 11-2 closed Sun

aagainesville.org. 352-372-8091 GRAPEVINE: aagrapevine.org

AREA 14: aanorthflorida.org DISTRICT 27 website: districr27aa.org

Send Group Contributions To:

PO Box 2407

James A Farley Station

New York, NY 10116-2407

TRADITION SIX

An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

CONCEPT SIX

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

THE DISTRICT 27
A.A. INFO LINE
352-949-2239



District Meeting **3rd** Tuesday

of each Month 5:30 P.M.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

7550 149 PL, Chiefland 32626

all are welcome come see how the district is run.

ANYONE WANTING THEIR ANNIVERSARY DATE IN THE NEWSLETTER E-MAIL IT TO THE NEWSLETTER MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR SOBRIETY DATE AND YOUR HOMEGROUP WITH IT

ANYONE WILLING TO DO 12 STEP CALLS IN YOUR AREA E-MAIL THE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER AND WE WILL PUT A LIST IN THE INFO LINE PHONE BAG

REMEMBER NO ONE ANSWERS 12 STEP CALLS BY YOURSELF

I AM RESPONSIBLE

Whenever anyone anywhere reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always be there- for that:

I AM RESPONSIBLE

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn S. 6/3/1984 Women In Action 39 YEARS

NEW MEETING IN OUR DISTRICT

STEP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7 P.M Midway
Plaza.
13451 US Alt 27 Williston, Fl. 32696,

NA/AA MEETING

THURSDAY 7:PM
FANNING SPRINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
17930 N.W. 90 CT. FANNING SPRINGS , FL.

I Need People To Help Me Stay Sober

I was flipping through some of my sobriety books for inspiration and a little recovery “ Booster Shot”. One reading really hit home it asked me to think to the before times before sobriety. I was reminded of feeling extremely alone and unwanted. Drinking and using by myself in my darkened room often praying not to wake up not really wanting to die but not wanting to live anymore. Feeling friendless and unwanted, even though in reality I did have people that cared about me. But my mind was twisted and any effort on their part to show me and concern into another example of how no one understood me and therefore didn't really care.

The reading also reminded me of how a large part of my sobriety involves other people. People who actually do understand me. People who demonstrate empathy. How people are necessary to my sobriety. I have always socially inept. Unable to speak up for fear of saying the wrong thing or looking stupid and I frequently do I've learned by the example of others and that mistakes are a form of learning. As long as I trust the support and understanding of others, I can safely learn a new way of acting and being.

Members have taught me how to interact with others, how to reach out and how to be there for others in need of help. I need years of these examples to arrive at a new comfort that comes from being a part of not being apart from. My sobriety maintenance now includes keeping aware of my place with others am I starting to lean being apart from? I need to call someone and go to a meeting. Am I starting to acting like I'm better than? I need to call someone for help, read some literature or maybe do a fourth step. I need to be aware of and living my sober life everyday. Trying to list every action I preform on a daily basis. “Working my program” is like asking me for a gratitude list I can't see the end of, and it can change daily.

How is it that I've been sober all these years? How did I do it?

A wise woman once responded to this question with“

DON'T DIE AND STAY SOBER KEEP I'T SIMPLE SWEETIE” !

Karin L. 5/2/2023

Tradition Six!

“Our groups ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

It is easy to find a cause to stand behind and as individuals, we often do. However, when it fuels ego or ambition in a way that diverts us from our true intent, we probably should be careful not to lose our way. As a group, we ought to take care to stay true only to our primary purpose of recovery.

In the summer of 1938, Harper & Brothers offered to publish the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with a \$1500 advance. We soon realized that doing this would create a vulnerability that could cause us to lose control of the content of the book and how it was distributed (price, area sold, etc.). It also limited our ability to have direct contact with readers of the book (a diversion from our primary purpose). Works Publishing Company was established; controlled and operated by shareholders consisting of members of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Often, ‘things’ are not the way they appear. ‘Something’ may look good for the moment. We might be tempted to endorse, finance, or even lend our name to that ‘something’ only to find a flaw that gives us a black eye.

Alcoholics in the early days had few places to go for detoxification from alcohol. Most hospitals didn’t want the burden of treating alcoholics because they were seen as too troublesome. Many early members wanted to create AA hospitals that would give alcoholics a place to go. The affiliation was seen as dangerous, so the idea was discarded. Efforts to create safe havens for alcoholics still continued but they were kept separate from AA so that there would be no problems of money, property, or prestige (Halfway houses, club houses, detoxification centers, etc. are some examples).

Alcoholics Anonymous inspired many different recovery efforts through the years—some different, some using parts of AA. We have remained separate from these thus keeping our program intact.

AN AA MEMBER’S OPINION

STEP SIX

It is only after we have completed Step Five, when humility has been experienced and self-respect has been restored as a result of our admitting to God and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs, that we are in a suitable spiritual condition to sincerely carry out the provisions of Steps Six and Seven.

This action brings a new feeling of moral strength. For the first time we are facing our real selves—the selves whose withered roots have touched and are now drawing up an unending source of assurance, power, and security.

We find in the consummation of these Steps a new peace, a release from tension and anxiety as we now are laying our misconceptions and defects of character in God's hands. We are asking Him to rid them from our lives. We are exerting great mental cooperation with God. We feel an intense humility that cries out for recognition and divine help.

The Spiritual Lift, the nearness to our Creator that is experienced from humble invocation of His help, and our willingness to be freed from old willful thoughts and habits are essential to successful attainment of these Steps.

The mental hygiene and spiritual housecleaning we have started in our inventories and continued in Step Five reach their climax in Step Seven when we fully subject our wills to God and wish to surrender to Him all our moral imperfections.

THE BELIEF WILL COME"

In the beginning, I rejected any part of the A.A. program that referred to God in any manner. I even remained silent when they closed the meetings with the Lord's Prayer. (I didn't know the words, anyhow.) Looking back, I don't think I was an agnostic, nor do I think I was an atheist. But I do know this: I couldn't accept any of "the God bit," nor did I want to come to believe or have any spiritual awakening.

After all, I had come to A.A. to get sober, and what did all this truck have to do with that? Even with all my stupid arrogance, you still loved me, held out your hand of friendship, and I'm sure, used cautious wisdom in trying to reach me with the program. But I could hear only what I wanted to hear.

I remained dry for a number of years, and then, as you may already have guessed, I drank again. It was inevitable. I had accepted only those parts of the program that fitted into my life without effort on my part. I was still the self-centered egotist I had always been, still full of all my old hatreds, selfishness, and disbelief—just as lacking in maturity as I had been when I first arrived at A.A.

This time, when I came to in the hospital, I had absolutely no hope. After all, you had told me that A.A. was the last hope for the alcoholic, and I had failed—there was nothing else. At this very point, my sister chose to send me a clipping from a Sunday-school paper. No letter, just the clipping: "Pray with disbelief; but pray with sincerity; and the belief will come."

Pray? How could I pray? I didn't know how to pray. Still, I was ready to go to any lengths to get my sobriety and some semblance of a normal life. I guess I just gave up. I stopped fighting. I accepted that which I did not really believe, much less understand.

I started praying, not in any formal way. I just talked to God or, rather, cried out, "Dear God, help me. I'm a drunk." I had nowhere left to turn, except to this God I did not know.

I don't recall any immediate, dramatic change in my life. I do recall telling my wife how hopeless it all seemed. At her suggestion, I began rereading the Big Book and the Twelve Steps, and now I found in these much that I had never found before. I didn't reject any of it. I accepted it just as it was written. Nor did I read anything into it that wasn't there.

Again, nothing changed overnight. But, as time has passed, I have acquired a blind and, yes, childlike faith that, by accepting a God I don't understand and the program of A.A. just as it is written, I can maintain my sobriety one day at a time. If I am to have more than this, it will come as time goes by, just as other good things have come.

I no longer find it necessary, as I did for years, to prove my disbelief in God by my every thought and deed. Nor do I find it necessary to prove myself to others. No—the only accounting and the only proving I have to do is to myself and to God, as I understand Him (or don't

understand Him). I'm sure that I shall err from time to time, but I must learn to forgive myself, as God has forgiven me for my past.

I think I have had a spiritual awakening, as undramatic as it may have been, and that it will go on and on as long as I continue to practice this program in my daily affairs. To me, there is no "spiritual the program of Alcoholics Anonymous; the entire program is spiritual-

In my view, some of the evidences of a spiritual awakening are maturity; an end to habitual hatred; the ability to love and to be loved in return; the ability to believe, even without understanding, that Something lets the sun rise in the morning and set at night, makes the leaves come out in the spring and drop off in the fall, and gives the birds song Why not let this Something be God?

St. Petersburg, Florida