

Northeast Area 84 Newsletter

Winter 2012 Edition

ANNIVERSARIES

North Bay

Tammy K – 1 yr. – March 19th

Sudbury

Frank T. – 30 yrs. – Jan. 12th

Jean-Marie S. – 35 yrs. – Jan 12th

France L. – 25 yrs. – Feb. 3rd

Sault Ste. Marie

None

Temiskaming-Cochrane

Gerrie D. – 39 yrs. – March 7th

North Shore

None

Manitoulin

None

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contended
That your name is on the list?

So you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you work on committees?
To this there is no trick;
Or leave the work to just a few,
And talk about the clique?

Please come to the meetings often,
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think this over, members,
You know what's right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

Anonymous

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

All submissions are welcome; jokes,
personal stories, anniversaries and
upcoming events.

To make a submission please e-mail:

newsletter@aaneontarioarea84.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

✚ New Meeting Starting
January 5, 2012 at 10 am
Pinegate Detox, Sudbury

✚ Area Committee Meeting
February 4, 2012
Catholic Diocese, Sudbury

✚ Heritage Weekend
February 10, 11 & 12, 2012
W.H. Collins Hall, Elliot Lake

✚ Ontario Delegates
Committee Meeting
March 3, 4 & 5, 2012
Sudbury

ALCOHOLISM IS A LONELY BUSINESS MAY 1970

I know beyond any doubt that
somewhere I am written into the
book of life. The incredible
loneliness I once felt was not of the
flesh at all; it was the loneliness of
the soul cut off from God. Eternal
life isn't some dim, distant
concept, but a very real thing. For
me, it began the day I walked into
that AA meeting. Whether you are
in a crowded city or on the
windswept deck of a ship, you are
never alone from the moment you
come into AA.

Anonymous
Tolovana Park, Oregon

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SOMETHING IN THE WIND

APRIL 1987

An old school friend visited me and left two books by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick. Too ill to read them, I left them on the bedside table. However, at home, I opened one. It told a story of a boy on the coast of Main in the United States who asked an old sailor: "What is the wind?" The old man scratched his head. "I don't know," he said, "I can't tell you. But I know how to hoist a sail."

Although the old sailor didn't know what the wind was, he had learned how to harness some of its great power.

Wasn't this what many in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous had done?

Metaphorically speaking, they had hoisted a sail and caught hold of something, and that "something" was doing for them what they previously couldn't do for themselves.

Many called in God – some their Higher Power, while still others saw it as the strength of the Fellowship. As one man said "I would be a fool not to want what those people had"

W.R
Sydney, Australia

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WAKING UP SOBER

JULY 1990

The "spiritual awakening" of the Twelfth Step is for me an ongoing process. It grows and flourishes and becomes richer and deeper as I struggle my way through life one day at a time. I'm still a slow learner, and certainly am not yet

fully awake spiritually. The Higher Power gradually reveals himself through the working of our group, as we are told in the Second Tradition. And it is by my contact with the group, and through prayer and meditation, that I become ever more aware of his action in me and in my group. That, for me, is part of the "spiritual awakening."

Dan J.
Cochabamba, Bolivia

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TURNING ON THE POWER

AUGUST 1977

God is truth. I can find Him only through honesty, and the honesty must begin with where I am as a human being. Sometimes, it has meant starting with honesty about my dishonesty. With pain slowness, I've come to understand that the Steps will speak to my condition wherever I am in sobriety. Fresh work with all of them created fresh experience. The demands of the program are specific and the rewards equally precise. Do the work, collect the benefits.

The Big Book charts a vivid, vigorous course of personal change and growth. It's simple, direct, and precise. The program's transforming power is linked with its simplicity. AA's message promises healing and wholeness of any alcoholic who will pay the price. The price is simple to accept the help that will save our lives. In the process, AA gives us everything we really want but could never find anywhere else.

P.M.
Riverside, Illinois

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FILET OF SOUL

AUGUST 1987

I finally decided my soul was where that empty space was deep within me, that hollow spot that was always craving something to fill it. But nothing could satisfy it. It was a lingering hunger, but for what I never knew. So I decided that if I did indeed have a soul it had a huge hole in it. A hole as big as a hula hoop, I decided. More hole than soul. It was a wounded soul aching to be healed.

Love is what the soul thrives on and I began to find it in Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm still finding more and more of it and I try to put it to work in my everyday life. And the more of it I use, the more of it there is.

I don't expect the hole in my soul to ever be filled completely and permanently, because I can't achieve that kind of perfection. But love as I am learning it and witnessing it in Alcoholics Anonymous seems to be the only thing that is coming close to making my soul whole.

E.K.
La Canada, California

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JOKES

Q: How many AA's does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None, unless the light bulb really wants to change.

An alcoholic walked into a bar and read a sign that read "All you can drink for \$1.00." The alcoholic said "I'll have \$2.00 worth please"

HELP WANTED

Position: Alcoholic
Status: Full time
Salary: Unreliable
Accountability: None

Position objective:

To drink as much as you can, whenever you can and as often as you can until you completely destroy your life as you know it

Competencies required:

Must be able to lie, cheat, manipulate, justify and deny under all circumstances. Must also be able to reason in an insane and irrational manner. Be willing to allow your will to completely control your life. You are required to be secretive at all times with the goal of self-preservation at all costs. Teamwork is not required. This is a one person job. Problem solving not required until you decide to give up this job. Self-management is not required as you will be totally unaccountable and unable to manage yourself or your behaviour.

Planning and Organizational Skills:

Must be highly proficient in the following: Always have money available to purchase liquor. Know where the closest liquor store is located. Have basic mathematics skills to ensure that you always get the correct change when you purchase liquor. (If you do not have these specific skills, it is imperative that you effectively lie, cheat and steal to ensure that you are never without liquor.)

Learning Goals: None! Learning will not occur in this profession.

Necessary Qualifications: You must be willing to pick up that first drink. You must be willing to stuff your feelings. You must be willing to deny, deny, deny!

General Responsibilities:

To create a living hell for yourself and for anyone else in your path. To continue to do the same thing and expect a different outcome. A proven ability to handle isolation, hospital, detox, jail, public shame, suicidal thoughts and complete loss of hope.

Only qualified applicants need apply.

Created by Maureen O.

CONNECTING WITH MIRACLES

MARCH 1982

Genuine faith in a real Power greater than myself – other than AA – came ever so slowly, through what I can see today as gentle, almost incredible spiritual experiences on several new roads. The great gratitude I've always felt made it possible to connect the miracles I saw in my life and so many others' with surrender to the Steps and the practice of their principles. One day, I simply heard myself talking about Step Three to a new "baby," and I knew I believed what I was saying. My new belief made it possible for the Higher Power to further change me. And with more time, as I lived the Steps with greater care and insight, my "whole attitude and outlook upon life" was changed.

P.M.
Sumner, Washington

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POWER OF PRAYER

MAY 1968

The most wonderful thing I have discovered is that prayer works as truly and surely as I live and breathe! I am beginning to think Allah as a most loving Creator who is specially interested in me – otherwise he would not have led me to AA or given me so many chances to come out of slips. He keeps throwing the ball at our feet – so that we may play ball with him.

S.H.
Karachi, Pakistan

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