

# DISTRICT 48

February 2014

## Why AA?

Rewritten in part from *The Language of the Heart* pgs 34-35 & *Grapevine* July 1946

A story will illustrate: Some time ago we made a long list of our seeming failures in the first years of AA. Every alcoholic on the list had been given good exposure. Most of them had attended AA meetings for several months. After slipping and sliding around they had all disappeared. Some said they were not alcoholic. Others couldn't stand for our belief in God. Many had developed intense resentments toward their fellows. Anarchists at heart, they could not conform to our Society. And because our Society did not conform to them, they quit. *But only temporarily.* Over the years, most of these so-

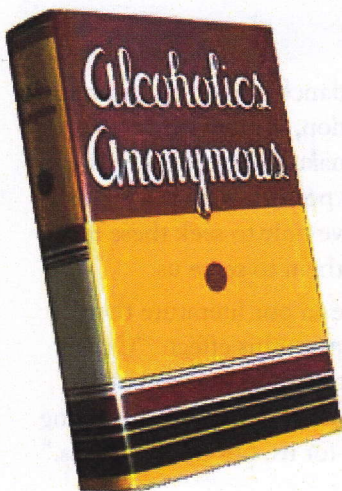
called failures have returned, often becoming magnificent members. We never ran after them; they returned of their own accord. Each time I spot one newly back, I ask why has he rejoined our fold. Invariably his answer runs like this: "When I first contacted AA I learned that alcoholism is a disease: an obsession of the mind that compels us to drink, and a sensitivity of the body that condemns us to go mad or die if we keep on. I also learned that AA worked, at least for some alcoholics. But I then disliked AA methods, hated some of the alcoholics I met there, and I still toyed with the idea that I could do the job of quitting all by myself. After several

more years of terrible drinking, which I found I was powerless to control, I gave up. I returned to AA because it was the only place left to go; I'd tried everything else. Arrived at this point, I knew that I must act quickly: that I must adopt the Twelve Steps of the AA recovery program; that I must cease hating my fellow alcoholics; that I must now take my place among them as a very small part of that great whole, the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous. It all boiled down to a simple question of 'do or die'. I had to conform to AA principles—or else. No more anarchy for me. So I'm back."

### PRE-ORDERS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

A.A. World Services, Inc. has announced the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous—to be published April 2014. This new edition will be a faithful replica of the original, with the famous "circus cover" dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book), and is published in the original English language text only.

The book price is \$12. To order a single book, the shipping would be \$10, making the final cost to you \$25. In order to cut shipping costs, Claire M. is gathering a tally of all those who would like to purchase this edition. Please contact Claire, or your GSR, *as soon as possible* to purchase the Commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.



## Contact AA

### Online:

[www.district48.org](http://www.district48.org)  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)  
[www.area59aa.org](http://www.area59aa.org)  
[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

### By Phone:

Local: 570-327-2860

### By Mail:

G.S.O.  
PO Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

For strength and hope  
for friends and families  
of problem drinkers:

### Al-Anon Online:

[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

### To listen to AA speakers

(download for free)

[www.aaspeakers.org](http://www.aaspeakers.org)

Is it True?

Is it Helpful?

Is it Inspiring?

Is it Necessary?

Is it Kind?

# Coming in February and March...

For additional information visit [www.area59.org](http://www.area59.org)

February 15 District 36 "Relationships in Sobriety" Workshop  
Colonial Park United Church of Christ  
5000 Devonshire Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17109 10am -2pm

February 16 EPGSA/SEPIA *Share-A-Day*  
University of the Sciences, Alumni Hall  
600 S. 43rd St., Phila., PA 19104  
Contact: Officer-at-Large@area59aa.org.

February 21-23 NERAASA 2014 *Rhode Island* Area 61 Host.  
Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI 02886  
2/1/14 1pm to 2/23/14 12N. Theme: "Communicating Our Legacies—Vital in a Changing World"

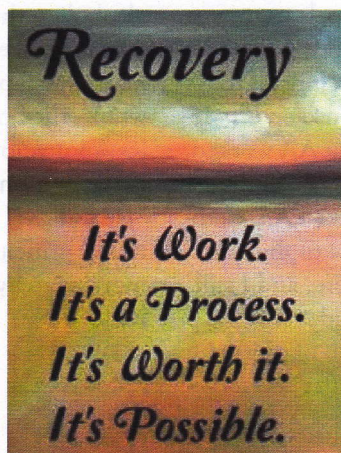
March 15 Districts 34, 63 & 64 are Hosting a One Day Conference  
Lancaster Host Resort 2300 Lincoln Hwy E. Lancaster, PA 17602 9am-10pm Theme: "The Hand of AA" Cost of Conference only \$20 with Buffet \$30.

The Friday Night Group is hosting a trip to Akron, OH, March 28-30, 2014. The group will visit AA historical sites such as Dr. Bob's house. Please contact Erica D. 717-858-2797 for additional information.

## Anniversaries

Anniversaries can be emailed to [district48aa@gmail.com](mailto:district48aa@gmail.com)

Joyce B. 2/2/14 33 yrs!  
Corrinne 1/9/14 90 days!  
Maureen K. 1/1/14 34 yrs!  
John 12/31/13 1 yr!  
Norm 1/5/14 3 yrs!  
Rick B. 1/29/14 1 yr!  
Judy 1/31/14 27 yrs!  
Wendy 1/21/14 3 yrs!



Mike 1/19/14 10 yrs!  
Charlene F. 2/1/14 20 yrs!  
Fred 1/13/14 22 yrs!  
Tom 1/13/14 2 yrs!  
Chuck 1/19/14 60 days!  
Jen. D. 2/23/2014! 2 yrs  
Mark L. 2/9/14 14 yrs!

## Leadership in AA

Looking ahead to District 48 2015–2017 Panel, as we seek out replacement GSRs, Alternate GSRs, DCM, Treasurer and Secretary over the next 10 months\*, I came across the following Grapevine article, written by AA co-founder Bill W., from April 1959:

\*before our replacements will be invited to attend the December 2014 District meeting on an official basis.

Real Leadership, of course, has to function in between those entirely imaginary poles of hoped-for excellence. In AA, certainly, no leader is faceless and neither is any leader perfect. Fortunately our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership—the active people of today and the potential leaders for tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We

have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example." In effect we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."