

Alcoholics Anonymous District 13 Newsletter August 2010

District Workshop focuses on service ~ beyond the home group level

Thanks to District 13 committee members and especially our Activities Chair, Melissa M., we were able to host a potluck followed by a panel presentation, Saturday, May 8th at Hills Community center. The idea was to present different aspects and ways to be of service to our AA community. District 13 committee chairs, Group Service Representatives, and our Area Delegate, Rick C, each spoke about their experiences in serving in their specific roles. Rick was recently back from the General Service Conference, held every spring in New York City. He gave us some first hand information about the larger fellowship's concerns/work. Of special interest to a few of our local Blue Noon group members was the progress the Literature committee was making on revising the pamphlet "The AA member-Medications & Other Drugs". Blue Noon group representative, George, had brought his groups concerns to the monthly District 13 meeting earlier this year. There was interest in having input in the revisions being considered. Alternate DCM, Jean H, had contacted WSO at that time and learned that there is no direct input to these committees. Rather those elected to serve have full responsibility and authority to carry out the service to which they are elected i.e. Literature committee members discuss and then make recommendations to the full Conference any changes/additions to our literature. Rick gave us several examples of how that played out on his own committee, which is the Corrections Committee. Rick pointed out that we must trust each other and our higher power. But it is equally important that we vote into office those most qualified to serve in the particular position. Committee work at all levels: Home group, District, Area and General service involves communication and openness to group conscience i.e. Higher Power's guidance. Each service role

has the authority to act as a trusted servant and to follow guidance from their own Higher Power. District 13 will be holding elections in September for the next cycle which will be January 2011-December 2012. Please consider attending to learn more about how to be of service in your district, We need you! District meeting times/locations/dates are on the front of the meeting directories.



Iowa City Intergroup phone service

For those who may not be aware, your Iowa City Intergroup provides a phone service for Alcoholics Anonymous here in Iowa City. This is a vital service for our AA community. A caller has multiple options when dialing the Iowa City Intergroup number, which is 319-338-9111 (24 hours/day) A caller can leave a message for a return call, call a pager to speak with a fellow AA member within 15 minutes or listen to the District 13 meeting schedule by day of the week to find the closest/next meeting available. A suffering alcoholic has the opportunity to get in touch with an AA member in a pretty immediate time frame. Many of us have been on the receiving end of this type of 12 step work and know first hand the life saving nature of this contact. I think anyone giving service by answering the phone/carrying the pager also knows how rewarding it is to be on the giving end of this 12 step work. One member helping another is how this whole fellowship started and is how we will keep it going! Please consider asking your home group to take a turn with the pager for 1 month. You will not be alone and training is provided. You can leave a message on the phone line at 338-9111 stating your willingness to serve and they will get in touch with you.

Speaker meeting at MECCA

The common solution group, which meets at Zion Lutheran Church Monday nights at 7:30pm, takes an open speaker meeting to MECCA treatment center here in town on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We are always looking for new speakers. This is an open AA meeting so all are welcome to attend whether speaking or not. If you would like to have a turn at speaking please contact Common Solutions home group member Tim H. who coordinates this service for the group. Home group members alternate chairing the meeting and locating speakers.



Hmmm, is this what they do
at a district meeting Jim ?

D. D. D.

Does your home group offer any special events/activities you would like the rest of your district members to know about?? Please send any information you would published in this newsletter to Tim H/Jean H leave a message on the intergroup phone line @ 319-338-9111.

Other service opportunities

Johnson County Jail allows an AA meeting alternating Thursday nights at 8pm.

(no exceptions even for holidays).

Both men and woman's meetings are offered. Generally these meetings last 1 hour but at times have gone over due to a large number in attendance. Members of AA chair the meeting with a format to guide them. Both genders have to show up or neither can have a meeting. This is a real test of AA cooperation for the good of our fellowship and those potential AA members incarcerated looking for a solution to their problems. I don't recall the men's meeting every being cancelled but occasionally no women want a meeting so the AA women can go home. Sometimes inmates are merely looking for an hour out of their cells but most often folks really do want to hear AA's message of hope and release from this cunning, baffling disease. If you are interested or just want to learn more about this service please leave a message for Susan H on the Iowa City Intergroup phone line, at 338-9111.



It was their 20th wedding anniversary and Bob was hung-over, as usual. Tired of being ignored his wife decided to shock him into reality. She said softly, "I'm having an affair". Holding his head, Bob replied, "Are you having it catered?"

Terry B. Albany, NY.

from Grapevine, November 2009

