The Messenger

November 2025

Area 24-District 11 News

Issue #18

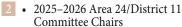


In this 11th month and the 11th Step we may find ourselves in a time of introspection and reflection. During the month, or while working the Step, our paths naturally lead us through powerful changes. Just as nature responds to the cooling atmosphere, so we too respond according to the depth of our conscious contact with our Higher Power, and ultimately with our fellows, in this journey of recovery.

By opening ourselves to the growth that prayer and meditation can bring we begin to find greater union with and understanding of what our place in the world asks of us, and to determine our course accordingly. This accord with the life we've been granted, and our attendant understanding of our strengths and weaknesses, better affords us the knowledge of God's will for us and the power we will need to answer the call to love and tolerance required of us.

It is by way of this journey that we are able to better appreciate these disciplines and principles of our new way of living. In order to fully realize the value of this design for living, that works in rough going, we first must honestly appraise our ability and desire to rely on this 'Power Greater than ourselves', while using that power to live out the design. We can then draw from an inexhaustible well of strength where we once had none.





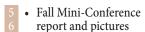
- District Business Information
- Intergroup Information
- Newcomer Information Links







Treasury Report





Novembeer AA History
 Reflections



 Events/Activities of Interest in and around Area 24/District 11



From the Newsletter Chair

- District Service Area
- 7th Tradition Information
- Where 7th Tradition Contributions may be made

The 2025-2026 Area 24/District 11 Committee Chairs



District Committee Member (DCM)	Keith K.	(815) 281–1591	area24district11dcm@gmail.com
Alternate DCM	Erin L.	(563) 543-0946	area24district11altdcm@gmail.com
Secretary	Erin R.	(563) 557–9110	area24district11secy@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cheryl P.	(614) 208–7477	area24district11treasurer@gmail.com
Archives	Rod M.	(563) 564–7341	area24district11archives@gmail.com
Grapevine	Travis	(563) 258–2668	area24district11grapevine@gmail.com
Corrections	Alicia M.	(563) 580-4979	area24district11corrections@gmail.com
Treatment & Accessibilities	Carol K.	(563) 580-7377	area24district11treatmentchair@gmail.com
Newsletter	Thom E.	(815) 823-4655	area24district11newsletter@gmail.com
Cooperation w/ Professional Community (CPC)	Sue G.	(563) 845–9427	area24district11cpc@gmail.com
Public Information (PI)	Shannon P.	(815) 858–4765	area24district11pi@gmail.com
Activities	Mark R.	(563) 543–3218	area24district11activities@gmail.com
Fall Mini–Conference Chair	Chuck E.	(815) 281–9050	

District 11 GSR Meeting 10:30 am First Saturday of each month:
1646 Asbury Rd (Lower Level)

Intergroup Business Meeting10:30 amThird Saturday of each month:Dubuque Area Intergroup Office

Dubuque Area Intergroup (563) 557–9196 1646 Asbury Road #7 Dubuque, IA 52001

Inside AA A Newcomer Asks | Alcoholics Anonymous The A.A. Group Sponsorship Our Traditions: Intro Our 12 Concepts of Service: Intro

11.1.25 Committee Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER DISTRICT 11 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 Time: 10:30 am: ~11:30 am Location: Westside Clubhouse, 1646 Asbury Road, Dubuque, IA

10:30 am: Opening

Call to Order & Welcome: Led by Alternate DCM Erin L. (filling in for Keith K., DCM: absent) Serenity Prayer Brief Introductions: first names & position; welcome visitors

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Roll Call: Committee Chairs & GSRs Approval of October Minutes: Motion / Second / Vote Treasurer's Report: Cheryl P. (summary, questions, Motion / Second / Vote) Al-Anon Updates

GSR GROUP UPDATES

164 Page Group (Sat 9:00 am) Tuesday Happy Hour (6:00 pm) Jaywalkers (Wed 7:00 pm) Stone Room Meeting (Mon 6:00 pm, New Melleray Abbey) Keyway Lodge (Wed 8:00 pm) Sober Sisters (Tue 12:00 pm) Women's Big Book (Wed 5:15 pm) Family Afterwards Big Book (Mon 9:00 am) Vision for Hope (Fri 7:00 pm) Union Step Group (Sun 6:00 pm) Manchester Saturday Night (Sat 6:00 pm) Galena Groups (Thu 6/7 pm; Wed 12:00 pm; Mon 10:00 am; Fri Zoom) Day at a Time (Tue/Thu 9:00 am) Open Doors (Epworth) Cascade Group Living Sober Group Others (as present)

DISTRICT CHAIR LIGHTNING SUMMARIES

(≈1 minute each) **Archives:** Rod

Corrections: Alicia M. Grapevine: Travis H.

Public Information (PI): Shannon P. (absent)
Cooperation with the Professional Community

(CPC): Sue G. (present)

Treatment & Accessibilities: Carol K. (present)

Activities: Marc R. (absent)
Treasurer: Cheryl P. (absent)
Alternate DCM: Erin L.
(Acting DCM for this meeting)

DCM: Keith K. (Absent; written report submitted

electronically)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2026 Budget Planning: Chairs to submit estimated annual spend by December meeting
- Technology/Hybrid options for accessibility: follow-up discussion
- Open service positions & succession planning (ASAC coordinator, others)

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- District 11 GSR Meetings: 1st Sat 10:30 am (Westside)
- Intergroup Meetings: 3rd Sat 10:30 am (Intergroup Office)
- Speaker Breakfasts: 1st & 3rd Sun 9:00 am (Fellowship Club)

CLOSING

Motion to Adjourn / Second / Vote Close with the Lord's Prayer

Report from Keith K. (DCM):

Thank you all for covering in my absence this month. I'll be reviewing the meeting notes soon and I'm grateful for your continued service: together we keep District 11 strong. Hello from Fort Dodge!

It was great seeing Jeff M. and Randy. A quick reminder from our delegate, Dan: the Meeting Guide app now includes online meetings: be sure to check it out. We also received reports from several upcoming events: Spring 2026 Conference in Marshalltown (pre-registration required for lunch and dinner) West Central Regional 2026
Fall 2026 Conference in Waterloo

The Area is still exploring centralized locations for future events. A subcommittee has been formed to review timing options for area conference workshops. Dawn, our Area Treasurer, is in the process of updating banking arrangements.

We approved sending a \$500 seed contribution to the Fall 2026 Conference Committee.

November 2025

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11.1.25 Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Lastly, here's the short report I shared during my two minutes at the podium, thank you all again for the privilege of serving.

District 11 DCM Report: Area 24 Service Weekend Good morning, everyone. It is a privilege to serve as DCM for District 11, faithfully tucked in the northeast corner of our beautiful state of Iowa, where the hills roll like hymns and the mighty Mississippi keeps us humble, grounded, and always flowing forward. District Updates & Group Conscience.

Meeting Guide App Beta Testing District 11 was part of the beta testing for the updated Meeting Guide App. Thank you to those helping test and provide feedback. The app now has online meetings!

ASAC Access Progress continues in gaining entry into ASAC (Area Substance Abuse Council) for carrying the message. We are actively working through approval steps and building relationships with staff to establish a consistent AA presence.

Accurate Meeting Listings

We've made strong efforts to ensure our District's meetings are updated correctly in the Meeting Guide App and on DubuqueAA.org. Accurate listings are vital for newcomers searching for hope and for visitors passing through our area.

Active Groups & Participation

Our District continues to host over 50 meetings

per week with growing participation and engagement. Thank you to all the GSRs and trusted servants who help keep our groups connected and informed.

Upcoming District 11 Events

laughter, stay for the unity.

Halloween Party November 1, 2025 An evening of fellowship, fun, and sober celebration. Costumes welcome but not required: come for the

District 11 Mini-Conference November 8, 2025 A full day of service, discussion, and connection, where we come together to shape the future of AA in our district and beyond.

Treasurers Report

STARTING BALANCE

\$3,411.60

CONTRIBUTIONS: Budget

4-Oct \$45.00 21-Oct \$34.00

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \$79.00

\$3,490.60

21-Oct \$25.00 (mini conference)

ENDING BALANCE 10/30/2025

\$3,465.60

Prudent Reserves

\$1,002.29

VITAL SUSTENANCE

November 15

Those of us who have come to make regular use of prayer would no more do without it than we would refuse air, food, or sunshine. And for the same reason. When we refuse air, light, or food, the body suffers. And when we turn away from meditation and prayer, we likewise deprive our minds, our emotions, and our intuitions of vitally needed support.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 97

Step Eleven doesn't have to overwhelm me. Conscious contact with God can be as simple, and as profound, as conscious contact with another human being. I can smile. I can listen. I can forgive. Every encounter with another is an opportunity for prayer, for acknowledging God's presence within me.

Today I can bring myself a little closer to my Higher Power. The more I choose to seek the beauty of God's work in other people, the more certain of His presence I will become.

[&]quot;Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a Power Greater Than Ourselves." – *Pg. 45, Alcoholics Anonymous*

Annual District 11 Fall Mini-Conference

Held this past weekend, on November 8th, the fall mini-conference, in the planning stages for most of the past year, was held at the Bread of Life Church, at the intersection of University Ave. and Loras Blvd., in Dubuque. Starting at 8 am and ending at 9 pm., with approximately 160 Al-anon and AA members registered and in attendance at various times during the day and evening, the event was warm, lively and dry, unlike the prevailing weather.

While certainly not new to many of our local members, the accommodations were welcoming, spacious and lovingly decorated by an able crew assembled by our district conference committee members, ably directed by our committee chair, Chuck E..

The event featured two terrific speakers, one at the noon meal and one at dinner. An Al-anon sponsored lunch of 'Sloppy Joes' and snack chip fare, finished off with ample selections of sweets, was enjoyed thoroughly, followed by a fascinating Al-anon speaker, Beth K. from Waterloo, who gave us her heart-warming comments regarding her more than 30 year journey of recovery and her spiritual experience, strength and hope.

The evening meal was a lavish array of 'Mac & Cheese' choices, fully customized to a wide variety of tastes, followed by a brilliant speaker, Bee R., from Philadelphia. (See a more complete article on page 7)

Both meals were enthusiastically enjoyed by those in attendance. While perhaps not the primary reason to attend the conference, it could justifiably be very high on the list, as both meals were delicious.

While during the morning sessions Al-anon conducted their business meeting and elections for 2026, there were two AA panel discussions, at 9 and 10:15, going on, covering interpersonal and Big Book topics of interest. After lunch and the speaker, the afternoon was busy with six diverse and interesting AA topics, along with 3 equally dynamic Al-anon Step topics.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's event as soon as we have a date set. They just put a fine enrichment to our own spiritual journeys, every year.

Here are some pics of this year's event, provided by Carol K. Enjoy:







Annual District 11 Fall Mini-Conference





















Our AA Speaker at the Fall Mini-Conference

Our evening banquet speaker was Bee Reed of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their talk was a stellar example of recovery in action. Bee shared their experience, strength, and hope through the actions taken in their life with the Twelve Steps of AA.

Bee recently celebrated eight years of continuous sobriety and shared their recovery journey step by step at the podium. Bee discussed their experience with finding a sponsor, and how they eventually strengthened her journey with a new sponsor who encouraged practicing the Steps and the Principles of A.A., rather than focusing solely on eliminating character defects. Bee shared that practicing the principle that correlates with each of the twelve steps keeps their recovery active.

Bee's message was informative and sincere. Hearing the experience of mending their relationship with their Grandma and Grandpa by suiting up and showing up gave everyone the opportunity to consider how the 9th step is essential to rebuilding family bonds.

On the next steps of their journey, Bee continues to attend Seminary and carry out their Chaplaincy role at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia practicing recovery one day at a time. When asked about their homegroup Bee provided the following meeting information and encouraged all of us to keep in touch!

Attitude Adjustment (Online)

Meets: Daily at 7 am MST Zoom Only (*details here*):

https://daccaa.org/meetings/online-attitude-adjustment-6?weekday=saturday

There is a completely separate partner meeting that takes place in person during the same time at the York Street Clubhouse in Denver, Colorado. (The online meeting was born out of necessity during the pandemic, and grew to be so widely attended beyond the Denver area that the group conscience decided to keep it going as its own distinct entity from the York Street meeting.)

New Freedom Group

Meets: Tuesday and Friday mornings at 7:15 am EST In-Person: Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church in the Fairmount neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA On Zoom (*details here*):

https://aasepia.org/meetings/new-freedom/

Description: A women's and non-binary discussion meeting based around Big Book or 12-and-12.

-Shannon P., Public Information Chair, District 11

Keys to "Into Action"

Guides Steps 5-11: It provides the necessary actions for the steps that follow the initial inventory, moving from Step 5 (confessing one's shortcomings) through Step 11 (prayer and meditation).

Emphasizes action over words: The chapter's title and core message highlight the importance of taking consistent action to effect change, stating that "Faith without works is dead".

Provides a path to a new life: It explains how these steps lead us to a new freedom and happiness, a sense of serenity, and a change in attitude toward life that allows for a better and more efficient way of living.

Outlines making amends: It guides us on how to make amends to those we have harmed, drawing on the inventory from Step 4 to identify who needs to be approached.

Introduces maintenance steps: It describes the beginning of the ongoing process of recovery found in Step 10 (continuing to take inventory and setting right new mistakes) and Step 11 (daily prayer and meditation).

Includes the "Promises": The chapter contains a list of benefits that we refer to as 'the Promises' that can be expected as a result of working the program, such as a new freedom and happiness, peace, and a change in attitude and outlook.

October AA History & Autumn Reflections

November AA History *

Nov 1934	Ebby T. carries message to Bill.	Nov 11, 1934	Armistice Day; Bill started drinking after
Nov 1936	Fitz M. leaves Towns Hospital to become		dry spell, beginning of Bill's last drunk.
	'AA #3 in NY', with Bill W. and Hank P.	Nov 12, 1940	1st AA meeting is held in Boston.
Nov 1937	Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron.	Nov 13, 1939	Bill wants to go to work at Towns Hospital,
	Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of		NY drunks want him to stay on as head of
	the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for		he movement.
	how to expand the movement a book,	Nov 14, 1940	Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st
	AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by		AA Bulletin.
	a majority of 2.	Nov 15, 1949	Bill W suggests that groups devote
Nov/Dec 1939	Akron group withdraws from association		Thanksgiving week to discussions of
	with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from		the 12 Traditions.
	T. Henry & Clarence Williams to Dr. Bob and	Nov 16, 1950	Dr. Bob Smith dies.
	other members' homes.	Nov 18, 1946	1st Dublin Ireland group met.
Nov 1941	"First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City,	Nov 21, 1939	AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California
	8 present, 1 was drunk.		AA meeting in the Clift Hotel.
Nov 1945	Bill's article called 'Those Goof Balls' published	Nov 21, 1952	
	in <i>The Grapevine</i> .		of Alcoholic Foundation, dies.
Nov 1986	Big Book published in paperback.	Nov 26, 1895	Bill W. born in East Dorsett, VT.
Nov 1, 1947	1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska.	Nov 26, 1939	Dilworth Lupton gave sermon "Mr. X and
Nov 1, 1963	Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies.		Alcoholics Anonymous". Became one of first
Nov 3, 2001	J P Miller who wrote screenplay for		pamphlets on AA.
	"The Days of Wine and Roses" died.	Nov 28, 1939	Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy f
Nov 9, 1966	President Johnson appoints Marty M. to the		or all AA groups.
	1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.	Nov 28, 1943	Bill W. is guest speaker at San Quentin
Nov 10, 1940			Penitentiary (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943).
Nov 10, 2001	1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives		
	in the mail.	*repos	sted by permission of South Jersey Intergroup

Themes for Autumn Reflections in AA

Letting Go: The falling leaves of autumn symbolize the need to let go of old, compulsive, or self-centered ways to allow for new growth, similar to how members are stripped of their old ways to blossom into a sober life.

Spiritual Growth: Like trees that sprout new blossoms in the spring after being stripped bare in the fall, members can find parallels in their spiritual journey, where a difficult period of cleansing can lead to new spiritual growth and joy.

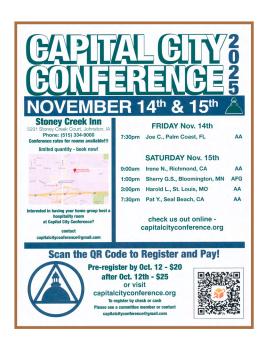
Cycle of Life and Recovery: The annual process of nature provides a framework for understanding the ongoing cycle of recovery and personal transformation, with each season bringing its own lessons.

Appreciation for Change: The changing seasons offer a time for members to pause and reflect on the transitions in their lives, and to appreciate God's work in the constant change that leads to a sober and joyful existence.

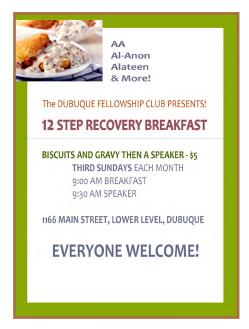
Coming Events and Activities of Interest in the Tri-State Area



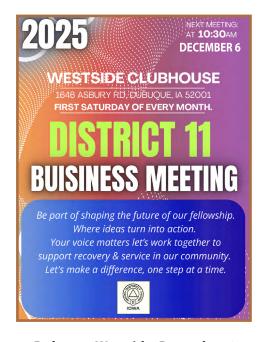
Dubuque, Currently



Des Moines, November 14-15



Dubuque Fellowship, December



Dubuque Westside, December 6



Dubuque Fellowship, December 7

Downloadable copies of most of these events are at <u>DubuqueAA.org</u>

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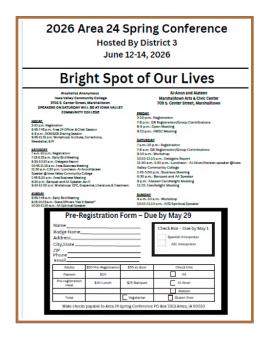
Coming Events and Activities of Interest in the Tri-State Area





Cedar Rapids, February 20-22, 2026

Cedar Rapids, Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2026





Marshalltown, June 12–14, 2026

Downloadable copies of most of these events are at <u>DubuqueAA.org</u>

Thoughts of Interest in District 11/Area 24

From the Newsletter Chair:

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the Dubuque Area Intergroup and its website, **DubuqueAA.org**, which hosts the District 11 **Messenger** newsletter, events and AA Meeting Schedules. Thank you, for all that you do!

Summaries of the District GSR Business Meetings and Chair reports usually are lightly edited for clarity and brevity. Original, full Chair reports are recorded and emailed within the business meeting minutes. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive the District 11 monthly GSR Business Meeting minutes in full, please email requests to: area24district11altdcm@gmail.com

We invite the District 11 fellowship to submit articles, art or photos related to their recovery that emphasize their experience, strength and hope for the still suffering alcoholic. We especially invite GSR's to submit articles describing their Home Groups and their activities. Articles should ideally be about 300 words or so.

Content submissions may require light editing, but every effort is made to maintain the spirit of the message, as expressed. Of course, anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all of our decisions including use of initials for last names.

This newsletter, **The Messenger**, is a publication of **Area 24** /**District 11 of Alcoholics Anonymous**. The editors and contributors do not speak for AA, in whole or in part, and the information presented is for the sole use of the members of AA and the opinions expressed are those of the editors or authors only. All content quoted from AA Literature is offered in the spirit of recovery and every attempt is made to attribute the text accurately.

District 11 serves the AA members and supports institutions of the following communities:

- Iowa -

Bellevue • Cascade • Delhi • Dubuque Dyersville • Edgewood • Epworth • Hopkinton

Manchester • Maquoketa • Peosta

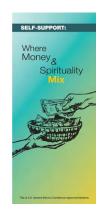
- Illinois -

Elizabeth • Galena • Hanover

Our 7th Tradition:

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self–supporting, declining outside contributions"

Reprinted from page 160, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.



Self-Support:
Where Money and
Spirituality Mix

Where Your
Contributions
Are Applied

Your contributions support the operations of District 11 and the Dubuque Area Intergroup. All Individual contributions from AA members are gratefully accepted.

All of these AA organizations depend on our support:

General Service Office Post Office Box 2407 James A. Farley Station New York, NY 10116–2407 Area 24 PO Box 1291 Des Moines, Iowa 50305

District 11 Treasurer 1646 Asbury Road, #7 Dubuque, IA 52001 Dubuque Area Intergroup 1646 Asbury Road #7 Dubuque, IA 52001