



THE MESSENGER

Area 24 - District 11 News

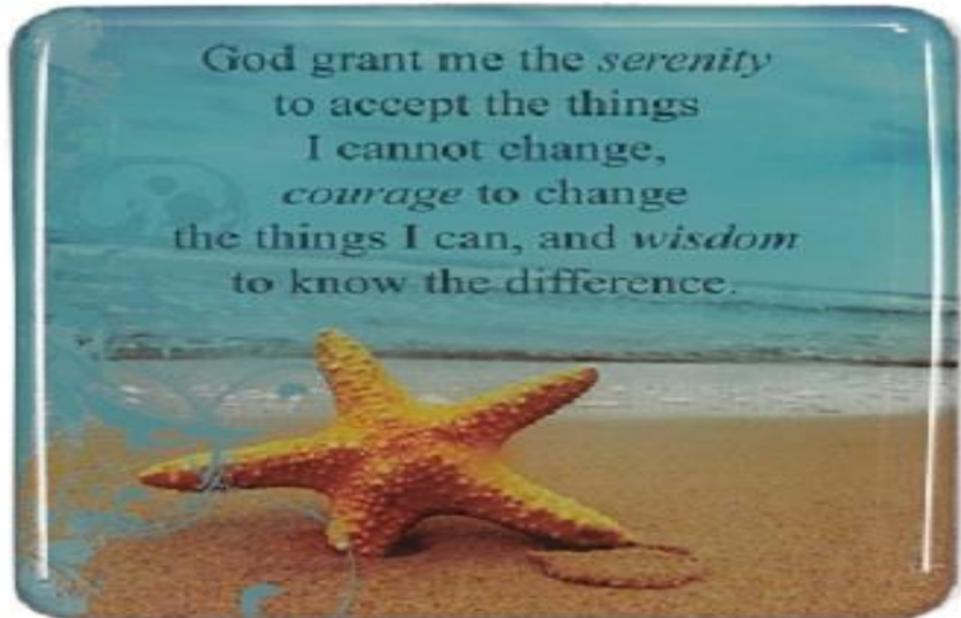
AUG
2022

ISSUE #2

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institutions; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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[Origins of the Serenity Prayer](#)

Helpful Links:

[A.A. for the Native North American | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

DISTRICT 11

MEETINGS

Inside A.A.

ZOOM MEETINGS



Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc

[A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues - and Their Sponsors](#)

[Big Book Edition 3 Spanish: Capítulo 1 — La Historia del Bill | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[Big Book Fourth Edition - American Sign Language \(ASL\) Press Release | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[Young People and A.A. | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

The scoop of the day Sponsorship

Elder Statesman, Tom M, shares his experience, strength, and hope, on Sponsorship.

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The scoop of the day Bridging the Gap

Elder Statesman, Terry C, shares his experience, strength, and hope on the beginnings of Bridging the Gap in District 11.

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The scoop of the day District News

You can download the Area 24 Delegates' Summary of the 72nd General Service Conference happenings.

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He Used a Chair to Illustrate a Power Greater



My name is Tom and I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is 8-21-1982. Since I've been sober in this fellowship, I've never had a relapse and have been very fortunate to have had the same sponsor from the first day. Here are some of my experiences with Sponsorship.

My Sponsor got me involved in the program very quickly. Back then, there were only a few meetings in Dubuque, so we had to pile in a car and go to out-of-town meetings. The Sponsors said, "get in the car" and you'd get in the car. We never argued with our Sponsors. You just did it! I was about 3 months sober in AA and started sponsoring guys. The first 5 got drunk! I went back to my Sponsor and asked why these guys couldn't get sober and he told me, "You can't transmit something you ain't got!". Well, I felt offended! And he said you really can't give this thing away until you work these 12 Steps. I thought I'd better listen, so I reluctantly started to work the steps with him. After I finished working all 12 of the Steps, I started sponsoring guys. I have sponsored many guys since; some, to success. All I know is, they have done more for my sobriety than I could have ever done for theirs. God has the power, not me. If they work those 12 Steps, they find that out, too.

I ask them: One, if you want what I have, you have to do what I did. If you do something else, you'll get something else. Two, are you willing to go to any length to get to get this thing? Three, are you willing to let me take your inventory? (Later on, a Sponsee will balk at allowing me to take their inventory, and I'll remind them of their agreement) And then we can start working through the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

One individual, Terry, was a particularly hard nut to crack! When we got to Step 2, he really balked. He thought there couldn't be a power greater than himself. We spent almost 2 months working in my basement office on Step 2! I didn't know what to do, so I prayed to my God for help. Suddenly, a thought came to me.

"One individual, Terry, was a particularly hard nut to crack!"

Sponsorship

When he came over the next night, I asked him to hold a chair up in front of him for as long as he could. When the chair would start to come down, I said, "no, no, hold it up!" Finally, I asked him to put the chair down and sit on it. (He was getting tired) I asked him how long he thought the chair would hold him: a week, a month, a year? He answered that the chair would hold him as long as he sat there. At that point, he began to understand the idea of a chair as a power greater than himself, and we got through Step 2. It's been an absolute pleasure Sponsoring guys in AA. It gives me the opportunity to grow, myself. Chapter 7 in the Big Book says, "This is an experience you must not miss!" Thank you, AA, for saving my life and giving me the opportunity to share my experience, strength, and hope. I love AA.

TOM M



Terry C Remembers

Bridging The Gap Arrived in District 11 September, 1991



[AA'S BRIDGING THE GAP PAMPHLET](#)

“The journey of Bridging the Gap into Iowa all started in September 1991. My sponsor had just been voted in the Treatment Chair position in District 11. On a Tuesday in early September of 1991, he called and asked what I was doing the following weekend.”

Upon returning to Dubuque, Tom started meetings, sharing our experience in Des Moines about BTG. Then result was very well received and eventually *over one hundred members* of our District’s AA volunteers were divided into teams, and we started carrying the message into our three substance abuse facilities and later, into the Elm Street Correctional Facility. We held monthly BTG meetings sharing our experiences of doing the bridges.

When I said “nothing” he told me to pack a suitcase, we were going to Des Moines and that was followed with a “click” and a dial tone. So, on Friday, my sponsor, Tom M, along with Warren B, Steve F, and I left for Des Moines to attend a workshop put on by Area 24, Iowa, to initiate the program “Bridging The Gap” in Iowa. The workshop was chaired by our Area 24 Treatment Chair, Mike H and had guest speakers Terry L from Minneapolis, MN and Don P from Aurora, CO. A presentation from North Carolina and Oklahoma AA members explained BTG that was already up and running in their Areas, laying out the format that was being used in their respective Areas.

“Westside got so packed and noisy, the BTG meetings became affectionately known as ‘Mass confusion’”

The teams were divided by sex, occupation, location, am & pm. Each team had a captain and upwards to 10 members. Tom would receive the information about the client from the treatment facility and would then call the appropriate team captain to fill the Bridge. Although changes have occurred since then, 31 years later we are still carrying the message of recovery into the facilities as requested.

Terry C

From Christin P Manchester Group



Tuesday, 7pm Manchester Group (C)
1530 South 3rd Street,
Manchester, IA

In my first months of sobriety, driver's license not yet restored, and no babysitter, the pandemic hit, and all the Manchester meeting places closed, except this one. Inside the room sat a very small group of gentlemen, who, as a group, would become my temporary sponsors. I was especially grateful, since there were no other women in the meeting that I could meet and ask to be a sponsor.

If I needed direction, or got stuck on a question, I was always welcomed to call. And they welcomed me in along with my daughter, 5 years old at the time. She'd sit quietly with her tablet or coloring books, as I listened to them sharing their experience strength and hope with their 20, 30, or 40 years of sobriety. Sometimes, one gentleman would bring cookies, much to my and my daughter's delight!

For close to half a century the recovery fellowship in the Manchester IA area has been solid and enduring. In 1977 the group met in the jail on Monday nights. Members of the group remember the cell doors clanging during their meeting. This meeting was simply named "The Monday Night Meeting." It was eventually moved to an alternate location and day.

Traditionally, Manchester had both an AA meeting and an Al-Anon meeting every Tuesday night in the Presbyterian Church. The AA members met in the basement and the Al-Anon members met in the church library upstairs. In years past, this meeting was structured as a step study for the newcomers beginning their adventure through recovery.

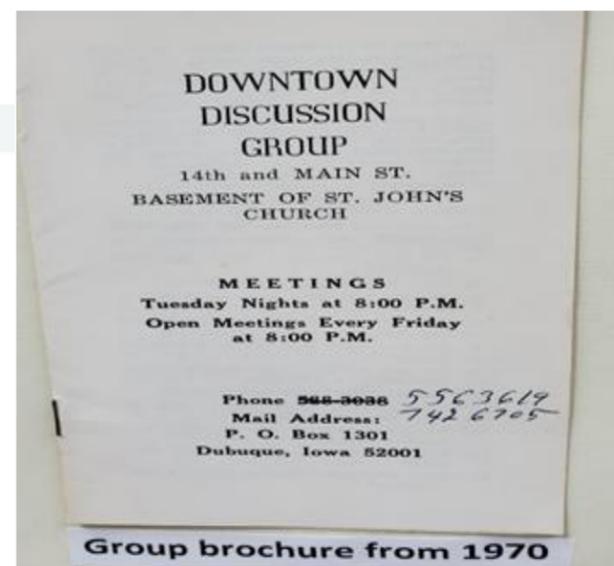
When COVID occurred, we, like many other groups, were no longer allowed to meet at the church. The fellowship decided to continue meeting face to face. They moved "the Monday night meeting, to Tuesday nights" to a location fondly referred to as "The Barn." During the pandemic, this meeting was the only in-person meeting for miles, meeting every Tuesday, without fail.

I'm very grateful for this meeting I call my Home Group. From the open discussion meeting, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm upstairs in "The Barn".

From the Archives/Jeff M

Dubuque's A.A. Group No. 3

Much is known about Dubuque's first group--the Founder's Group and its second group--the Julien. But little is known about the Key City's forgotten and third group--the Downtown Discussion Group. Early on, A.A. groups were strictly speaker gatherings. Sometime in the late 1960s, the Downtown Discussion Group was started at St. John's Episcopal Church at 14th and Main Streets. Its founder was Leo V. There were two weekly meetings at this location. In addition, Dubuque's first Alateen group met there at this time (1970).



Area 24 and District 7 (Des Moines) are pleased to announce that we have won the Bid to host the 27th the National A.A. Archives Workshop, Sept. 2024, in Des Moines!



The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities is seeking A.A. members in the U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces to discuss their experience, strength, and hope as sober members of A.A. in the military in recorded anonymity-protected interviews. The goal of this effort is to improve A.A. outreach to members in the U.S. and Canadian military. Interested military members can volunteer or get more information about this project by writing to militaryoutreach@aa.org.

**In the Military? Your experience, strength and hope is needed!
Email militaryoutreach@aa.org!**

From Paul S, GSR

At the Jaywalkers Group, there is no such thing as bad manners. You can interrupt at any time.

Hello, my name is Paul S and I'm an alcoholic and I'm here to share with you about my Home Group, the Jaywalkers Group. We meet in the lower level of the Fellowship Hall on the Hillcrest Campus, AY Chapel Fellowship Hall, 2001 Asbury Rd (Enter from Wilbrecht Lane) at 7pm on Wednesday nights.

We study, together, the first 164 pages of the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and on the first meeting of the month, we study a corresponding Tradition from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* book.

This Big Book study group is unique because as we read, we can interrupt and share our remarks at any time or make a correlation on any part of the passage or text that we just read.

Because we can interrupt at any time, it has really led to "from-the-heart" sharing of our experiences, strength, and hope. This has been very helpful to my recovery. Our group believes very strongly in staying active in service-work in A.A. as a way of keeping our recovery alive and flourishing. In this way, we take opportunities to give back what was given so freely to us. The program has given us so much that we could never have done by ourselves and in service, we can show our gratitude.



Mary Ann G, AA Area 25 Delegate, visits AA District 11, August 6, 2022

Download the Summary with the Link Below



[AREA 24 DELEGATE SUMMARY FOR THE 72 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE](#)



Area 24 Delegate, Mary Ann G., visited District 11 after the GSR Business meeting, August 6th and shared highlights of the General Service Conference.

- District 11 elections will be held on Saturday Oct 22 at 10:30 during the October 22 Mini-Conference at Grandview United Methodist Church.
- Service Position “Lunch and Learn Workshop” August 27 from noon to 2 (lunch served) in preparation for District Elections.
- Treatment and Accessibilities is actively serving Bridging the Gap and outreach to Turning Point, Liberty Recovery and Hillcrest Adolescent Treatment Programs.

Fall Mini Conference:

The theme of the Mini-Conference will be “Our Three Legacies”. Please bring your Raffle prize contributions to Dubuque Area Intergroup or call or email me to arrange a drop-off. We will also have displays for Literature, Archives, YPAA and Grapevine displays.

We are still in need Volunteers to help with clean-up and tear down at the end of the Conference, and for Registration and Greeters. Sign-up sheets are going around from the GSR’s. Please sign up!

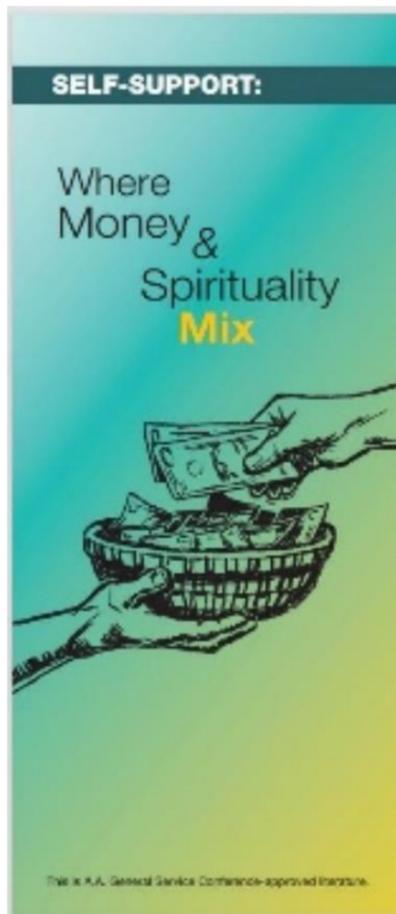
Thank you,

Carol K, Mini-Conference Chair 563-580-7377
mini.conference@dubuqueaa.org

The Mini-Conference Planning Committee meets every 2 weeks at noon at Dubuque Area Intergroup, 1670 Asbury Rd, Dubuque. Come join in the fun!

District 11 will be bidding to host the Area 24 2023 Fall Conference in Dubuque, at the next Area 24 business meeting August 21st.

- The Dubuque Area Intergroup is actively seeking a new location.
- Curtis R, our YPAA Liaison (Young People in A.A.), has been elected IAYPAA VII Host Committee Outreach Chair! Congrats, Curtis! IAYPAA is the Iowa Conference of Young People in A.A; young defined as “Anyone with room to grow”.
- The Public Information and (CPC) Cooperation with the Professional Community Chairs continue to be busy.



[Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[Where Your Contributions Are Applied](#)

Send GSO Contributions to:
General Service Office
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Send AREA 24 Contributions to:
AREA 24
PO Box 1291
Des Moines, Iowa 50305

Send Dubuque Area Intergroup Contributions to:
1670 Asbury Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52002

Send Pink Can Contributions to:
Pink Can
PO Box 1045
Marion, Iowa 52302

Send District 11 Contributions to:
District 11 Treasurer
PO Box 1264
Dubuque, Iowa 52004-1264

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.

District 11 serves the following communities:

Bellevue

Galena, IL

Delhi

Dubuque

Dyersville

Cascade

Epworth

Manchester

Maquoketa

Peosta



From the Editors

Dubuque Area Intergroups' website, DubuqueAA.org, hosts District 11 News, Events and AA Meeting Schedules. Thank you Dubuque Area Intergroup!

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 homegroups and their activities. Articles need to be limited to 350 words. Summaries of the District GSR Business Meetings and Chair reports will be edited for brevity. Original, full Chair reports are emailed within the business meeting minutes. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list to receive the District 11 monthly GSR Business Meeting minutes, please email your request to: dist11adcm@gmail.com

Content submissions may require editing, while retaining the message expressed. We need always protect the personal anonymity of the individual contributors.

This newsletter is a publication of District 11 Alcoholics Anonymous; but does not represent AA as a whole nor any of its members. The information presented is to be used for AA purposes and reflects the opinions of the writers, only. It does not reflect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Send submissions to Dist11Newsletter@gmail.com

Thank you!