

# The Messenger

March 2025

Area 24–District 11 News

Issue #10



“There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let’s not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words “love” and “service.” We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let’s bear those two things in mind.”

“Let us also remember to guard that erring member, the tongue, and if we must use it, let’s use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.”

– Excerpted from Dr. Bob’s brief remarks on Sunday, July 30, 1950, at the First International A.A. Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. He died on November 16, of that same year.

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	<b>The 2025–2026 Area 24/District 11 Committee Chairs</b>	



<b>District Committee Member (DCM)</b>	<b>Keith K.</b>	<b>(815) 281-1591</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11dcm@gmail.com">area24district11dcm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Alternate DCM</b>	<b>Erin L.</b>	<b>(563) 543-0946</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11altdcm@gmail.com">area24district11altdcm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Erin R.</b>	<b>(563) 557-9110</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11secretary@gmail.com">area24district11secretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Cheryl P.</b>	<b>(614) 208-7477</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11treasurer@gmail.com">area24district11treasurer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Archives</b>	<b>Rod M.</b>	<b>(563) 564-7341</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11archives@gmail.com">area24district11archives@gmail.com</a>
<b>Grapevine</b>	<b>Travis</b>	<b>(563) 258-2668</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11grapevine@gmail.com">area24district11grapevine@gmail.com</a>
<b>Corrections</b>	<b>Alicia M.</b>	<b>(563) 580-4979</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11corrections@gmail.com">area24district11corrections@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treatment &amp; Accessibilities</b>	<b>Carol K.</b>	<b>(563) 580-7377</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11treatmentchair@gmail.com">area24district11treatmentchair@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Thom E.</b>	<b>(815) 823-4655</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11newsletter@gmail.com">area24district11newsletter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cooperation w/ Professional Community (CPC)</b>	<b>Sue G.</b>	<b>(563) 845-9427</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11cpc@gmail.com">area24district11cpc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Public Information (PI)</b>	<b>Shannon P.</b>	<b>(815) 858-4765</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11pi@gmail.com">area24district11pi@gmail.com</a>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Mark R.</b>	<b>(563) 543-3218</b>	<a href="mailto:area24district11activities@gmail.com">area24district11activities@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fall Mini-Conference Chair</b>	<b>Chuck E.</b>	<b>(815) 281-9050</b>	

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

Intergroup Business Meeting  
**10:30 am**  
Third 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](#)

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Minutes of the Committee Meeting, 3.1.2025		

**DISTRICT 11 MEETING MINUTES**– March 1, 2025 |Location: Westside Clubhouse, 1646 Asbury Road, Dubuque| Time: 10:30 am

### 1. OPENING

DCM Keith K. called the meeting to order, followed by the serenity prayer and first-name introductions of all in attendance.

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

District Chair Roll Call | All officers and chairs present except for: Erin R., Rod, Shannon P., and Marc R.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Substitute secretary, Cheryl P. read the unfinished and new business items from the February minutes. The February minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report:

Dubuque AA District 11				
Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2025				
STARTING BALANCE				\$2,770.37
CONTRIBUTIONS:		Monthly	Budget	
1-Feb	Feb District Mtg	\$26.00		
15-Feb	Att Adjust Galena	\$100.00		
15-Feb	Vision for Hope	\$250.00		
15-Feb	Galena Groups	\$200.00		
28-Feb	Interest	\$0.11		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:		\$576.11		\$3,346.48
EXPENSES:		Monthly	Budget	Purpose
5-Feb	Westminster Presbyt.	\$200.00		Deposit
	#3142			Mini-Conf.
6-Feb	Union-Hoermann Pr.	\$211.86		1,500
	#3143			schedules
15-Feb	Grand View Meth.	\$50.00		Extra for
	#3144			Mini-Conf.
15-Feb	Shannon P.	\$165.82		Reimb.
	#3145			service
				event
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$627.68		
ENDING BALANCE 2/28/2025				\$2,718.80
\$1000 - Prudent Reserves				\$1,001.96
Cheryl P. District 11 Treasurer				3/1/2025

Cheryl P. to present February financial updates. Treasurer's report approved.

### 3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Archives:** Rod M. (absent). Jeff, the archivist, reported that he has new research on the Galena AA community. The first AA group in Illinois outside of Chicago was the Sterling, IL group (1943) [see pg. 6 of this newsletter.] No listings of Galena groups in 1951 or 1956. Jo Daviess County Group first appeared in archival literature in 1973

**Corrections:** Alicia M. reported that she was able to get ahold of jail volunteers. Information went out in the Newsletter. Volunteers are needed for the Dubuque jail. Two years sober and a background check are required. They do have books there (they were moved due to cleaning). We no longer will deliver books through an individual counselor but will ship them per AA protocols. The question was raised as to why two years was required; it was explained that this is the Sheriff's rule

**Grapevine:** Travis has been in communication with Kimberly L. the Outreach Chair from the Grapevine. If anyone has upcoming events that you need Grapevine literature for, please let Travis know.

**Newsletter:** Thom E. reported that the first two Messenger newsletters were sent out and are available on the Dubuque AA website. If you want to be added to the listserv, please contact Thom.

**Public Information (PI):** Shannon P. (absent, but emailed the following report ahead of time, which was read aloud). Greetings District 11. Since we met last month, I have gotten in touch with the Public Information desk at GSO. They have supplied me with the service materials I'll find useful for public information service. Did you know Alcoholics Anonymous World Service has a YouTube channel? <https://youtube.com/@alcoholicsanonymousworldse1373?si=HgWYUJAfGa91CtOg> The podcast episodes of Primary Purpose are available here. In addition to downloadable PSA and digital posters for public information, there are short clips that can be shared on social media platforms with information about the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver. I'm continuing to get more comfortable with Dropbox and setting up folders and files. I hope to have this completed soon and will provide instructions. In the meantime, I hope you have a great meeting today and I'll see you at the next one in April.

Yours in service, Shannon P.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):** Sue G. submitted 2 reports.

On February 14, 2025, I had the pleasure of meeting with Father Jerome at the New Malleray Abbey (Monastery) just outside of Dubuque. Father Jerome had reached out to Tom from Cascade, which is what prompted my visit. I brought several AA meeting schedules and pamphlets, including "Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous." Father Jerome wanted me to pass along to all of our 12 step program members that he is willing to hear 5th steps from anyone in need; this includes members from Al-Anon, NA, SA, OA, etc. Father Jerome is also willing to serve as a "retreat master" for any retreats we might want to hold at the Abbey. We would create the

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materials for the retreat itself; Father Jerome would attend and make a presentation. To schedule a retreat at the Abbey, please call Carol at 563-588-2319, x145. Finally, Father Jerome often attends the Monday 6pm open AA meeting at the Monastery, so please introduce yourself if you go.

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In loving service, Sue G, CPC

The suggestion was made to work with assisted facilities to let them know about Zoom meetings for interested AAs who live there. Sue will follow up. There is a Physician's Assistant, Sherry Kelch at Mercy One in Cascade who could use some help addressing alcoholism. Sue will follow up!

**Treatment & Accessibilities:** Carol K. updated the list of volunteers for Bridge the Gap. The only one continuing is 10 am on the third Wednesday at Mercy. Anyone looking for newcomer packets can find them in the IG office. Is getting books out to Residential Care Facilities through Josh who works at Hillcrest. Mark noted that Areas Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) has opened a new office near Eagles Grocery Store and offers outpatient treatment. Carol will follow up.

**Activities:** Marc R (absent, no report). Ron M. announced that he hopes to plan a 12-Step Round Up event for all recovery groups with speakers and dinner, and bingo at the Fellowship Club on the last Friday in March.

**Alternate DCM:** Erin L. 1,500+ schedules were printed and paid for. Mailed in two GSR replacements for the Area so far.

**DCM Report:** Keith K. read the following report:  
Thank you all for your continued dedication and service to our district and area. Area 24 has recently released the second round of background materials available on our Dropbox, covering Literature, Policy/Admissions, Treatment, and International Conventions/Forums. Sub-committee chairs will be responsible for reviewing their respective agenda items, and additional assignments will be communicated prior to our March review. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Area 24 Service Weekend scheduled for March 15-16, 2025, in Marshalltown, which offers valuable workshops and networking opportunities. Please consider attending and carpooling with fellow members to enhance participation. Your commitment and involvement help strengthen our district and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Additionally, there have been discussions about enhancing our district's outreach efforts and service engagement.

Sue G. has proposed revisiting a 2013 presentation titled "Overview of AA in Dubuque," suggesting a workshop or collaborative event involving AA, Al-Anon, and NA groups within our district. This initiative aims to provide a clearer understanding of the structure and opportunities within our local recovery communities. Your feedback and active participation in such events would be greatly appreciated and would significantly benefit our collective service endeavors.

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In love and service, Keith, 815.281.1591

#### 4. GROUP REPRESENTATION REPORTS

There were 9 GSRs plus alternates present at the meeting who shared updates, challenges, and successes from their Home Groups.

- **GRS Mary C.**, Family Afterwards Big Book Group, celebrating this week their anniversary since 1999. They read from the Big Book. Small, intimate group (6-8 people). 9 am Mondays. Children are welcome.
- **GSR Dave**, Monday Night 24 Hour Group at Fellowship Club, 8:00 pm Monday night. Read and discuss the Daily Reflections. 4-8 average attendance.
- **GSR Tom**, Cascade Area AA Group, 7 pm Cornerstone Church at Friday nights. Averaging 12 people. Open meeting last week of the month. Tom also reported on behalf of Bernie, the GSR for There is a Solution Group (Tuesday), an open meeting in Cascade, also well-attended. They are looking to add a noon meeting on the weekend in Cascade.
- **GSR Travis**, Tuesday 6pm Happy Hour Group (Westside). Usually have 15-20 people, this past week they have more than 30. Read and discuss the 12 and 12 book. Great group!
- **GSR Julie G.**, Galena Attitude Adjustment 9am Saturday on Bench Street. Children are welcome, 12-15 people attend. Hybrid meeting.
- **GSR Paul S.**, Jaywalkers Wed 7pm at the bottom of the chapel at Hillcrest, in the basement of the chapel. Study the Big Book., once a month tradition. 12-14 average attendance.
- **GSR Carol K.**, Vision for Hope, Fridays at 7pm Intergroup. Read the Daily Reflections and discuss. 15-20 attendance.
- **Alternate GSR Carol K.** Sober Sisters. Tuesday at 12pm at Intergroup and Hybrid. 12 in person, 5 on Zoom average. Taking off. All women. A lot of newcomers.
- **GSR Cheryl P.**, Keyway Lodge, Wednesdays at 8:30 pm at Grand View Methodist Church, announced that their annual birthday party will be held on Saturday, June 21, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Meeting attendance has been good, seeing several newcomers lately.
- **Alternate GSR Erin L.** for 164 Page Group Saturday morning at 9 am. Attendance has been increasing lately, standing room only.

#### 5. LIAISON REPORTS

- **Intergroup Liaison Report.** Terry C. is absent, so Carol K. announced that the next meeting will be March 15 (business and elections), at 10:30 am. Will be updating the phone lists. Memorial and Labor Day picnics are being planned; there is no 4th of July event being planned due to its conflict with the International in Vancouver. There are open service positions in IG. Sober Sisters have donated labor to paint and clean the office. The Gathering of the Eagles is planned for March 22. Flyer is on the website. You can drop off raffle items at IG ahead of time, or bring them to the church that night.
- **Al-Anon Liaison Report.** Looks forward to working on the mini-conference with AA. Geri's term will conclude in December with new Al-Anon elections.



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- **YPAA Liaison Report.** (open position)
6. AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS
- **Mini Conference Update.** Chair Chuck updated us on the plans so far for the upcoming fall mini-conference. Westminster Presbyterian Church has been chosen and booked for the 2025 venue. The date is November 8th. The theme is “A Power Greater than Ourselves.” Save the date flyers have been finalized and are available for distribution. All committee chairs have been filled but there is still a need for volunteers. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled in April to discuss roles and responsibilities, program agenda, and budget.
  - **Unfinished Business.** District 11 Budget | Cheryl P. and Keith K. will present a proposed 2025-2026 budget for next month. Email Transition Process | Sue G. is working on an update and distribute SOP documentation and will provide more information next month. Dropbox SOP | Shannon will talk about the SOP usage guidelines next month.
7. NEW BUSINESS
- **Ron M.** wants our input on an idea he has for a new Sunday morning (3rd Sunday of the month) breakfast meeting for all

- recovery groups at Westside, a \$5 breakfast meeting with speakers sharing how they stay sober at 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months. It was suggested that it be called a “Recovery” meeting, not an AA meeting. Sue G. noted that there is a movement underway trying to get an “all-recovery meeting” started in town and said that the format can be shared with anyone interested.
8. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Reminded everyone that there is a Breakfast Meeting tomorrow at Fellowship Club, the speaker is Dorte B. from Madison, Wisconsin.
9. CLOSING
- The motion was made to close the meeting. Motion seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm with the Lord’s Prayer.
- 
- Respectfully submitted,\*  
Cheryl P, secretary pro tempore, District 11
- 
- \* District GSR Business Meetings and Chair reports and minutes are usually edited for brevity. See page 8, “From the Editors” for more information on newsletter notices and conditions, and how you can help.*

### DISTRICT 11 DCM REPORT

Area 24 Service Weekend • Marshalltown, IA • March 16, 2025

Good morning, everyone. It is an honor to be here representing District 11, and I want to express my gratitude for all of you who continue to show up, serve, and carry the message. AA has taught me that we do not do this alone, and District 11 is living proof of that principle in action. I want to thank my sponsor Thomas E., and my service sponsors Jeff P. and Curtis R. (If I could ask our members of District 11 on Zoom to raise their hands, and those in the audience to stand, I would. But the truth is, it is not the number of hands raised or bodies present that matters. What we may lack in numbers, we more than make up for in the depth, strength, and se name of recovery, there is power; unshakable, undeniable, and divinely guided.)

**District Updates & Group Conscience**

District 11 remains active, engaged, and committed to carrying the message to those who need it. Here’s a look at what’s been happening:

- **Over 50 meetings per week** – Our District continues to offer a wide variety of meetings, ensuring that anyone seeking help can find a seat, a voice, and a solution. A full list of meeting schedules and events can be found on our District 11 Intergroup website: [DubuqueAA.org](http://DubuqueAA.org). (Thank you, Patti M.-P., our website coordinator)
- **Strong participation at District Meetings** – At our last District 11 meeting, we had 10 GSRs present, representing their home groups with dedication and integrity. They listened attentively, respected the minority opinion, and upheld the principle of the upside-down triangle—because without the groups, none of us would be here today.

- **2025 General Service Conference Agenda** – Our members have been actively reviewing agenda items, ensuring we bring an informed and united conscience to the discussion.
  - **Newcomer Outreach & Sponsorship** – Many of our groups have strengthened their newcomer outreach by implementing greeters, newcomer packets, and temporary sponsorship sign-ups at meetings.
  - **Corrections & Treatment Bridging the Gap** – More volunteers are stepping up to help those transitioning from treatment centers and correctional facilities. We know that the hand of AA must always be there when someone reaches out.
  - **Public Information & CPC** – We continue to work with treatment professionals, courts, and local organizations to ensure that AA is visible and available to those in need.
- Upcoming District 11 Events**
- **Gathering of the Eagles** – March 22, 2025  
An inspiring day of fellowship and recovery, filled with powerful speakers, workshops, and discussions on spiritual principles in sobriety.
  - **District 11 Canoe Trip** – June 28-29, 2025  
A weekend to unplug and enjoy the beauty of nature while deepening bonds with fellow members. Recovery doesn’t mean we stop having fun—we get to experience life fully.
  - **District 11 Mini-Conference** – November 8, 2025  
A day of service, discussion, and unity where we come together to shape the future of AA in our district and beyond.  
For more details on these events, visit [DubuqueAA.org](http://DubuqueAA.org).
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- In love and service, Keith K., 815.281.1591  
[area24district11DCM@gmail.com](mailto:area24district11DCM@gmail.com)

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	AA History and Featured AA Group	

## March History

(reposted by permission of South Jersey Intergroup)

March 1936	AA had 10 members staying sober. At end of 1936 A.A. had 15 members.	March 9, 1941	<u>The Wichita Beacon</u> reports “AA member from NY wants to form a group in Wichita”.
March-May 1938	Bill begins writing the book <u>Alcoholics Anonymous</u> . Works Publishing Inc. established to support writing and printing of the book.	March 10, 1944	New York Intergroup was established.
March 1940	Mort J. came to L.A. from Denver; started custom of reading Chapter 5 of the Big Book at Cecil Group.	March 11, 1949	The Calix Society, an association of Roman Catholic alcoholics who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, was formed in Minneapolis by five Catholic AA members.
March 1941	Second printing of the ‘Big Book’.	March 14, 1941	South Orange, NJ, AA group held an anniversary dinner with Bill W. as guest speaker
March 1941	1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.	March 15, 1941	1st AA group formed in New Haven, Conn. Not reported in paper until Oct 1, 1941.
March 1946	The <u>March of Time</u> film is produced by NY AA office.	March 16, 1940	Alcoholic Foundation & Works Publishing move from Newark to 30 Vesey St. in lower Manhattan – first headquarters of our own.
March 1949	Dr. Bob considers idea of AA conference premature.	March 21, 1881	Anne R., Dr. Bob’s wife, is born.
March 1951	<u>American Weekly</u> publishes memorial article for Dr. Bob.	March 21, 1966	Ebby dies.
March 1, 1939	<u>The Readers Digest</u> fails to write article on AA.	March 22, 1951	Dr. William Duncan Silkworth dies at Towns Hospital.
March 1, 1941	Jack Alexander’s <u>Saturday Evening Post</u> article published and membership jumped from 2,000 to 8,000 by years end.	March 22, 1984	Clarence S., “Home Brewmeister”, dies.
March 3, 1947	Nell Wing started work at Alcoholic Foundation 415 Lexington Avenue.	March 23, 1936	Bill & Lois visit Fitz M., “Our Southern Friend”, in Maryland.
March 4, 1891	Lois W is born.	March 25, 1898	Jim B. (“The Vicious Cycle”) was born.
March 5, 1945	<u>Time Magazine</u> reports Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.	March 29, 1943	<u>The Charleston Mail</u> , W. Va., reported on Bill W’s talk at St. John’s Parish House.
March 7, 1940	Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.	March 31, 1947	1st AA group formed in London, England.
March 7, 1941	<u>The Boston Globe</u> reported that any drunk who wanted to get well was more than welcome at the AA meeting at 115 Newbury St., at 8 PM Wednesdays.		

## The Sterling Group, Sterling, IL

(excerpted from An Alcoholics Anonymous History In Northern Illinois Area 20, Second Issue, Copyright 1996 and 2003 by NIA, Ltd.)

The secretary and “founder” of the Sterling Group, Ken S., got sober in Chicago in 1940 and moved to Sterling, a Whiteside County steel mill town in northwestern Illinois and 25 miles east of the Mississippi River and the Quad Cities.

For three years, he traveled the distance between Sterling and Chicago to attend meetings on a regular basis, had the opportunity to place new prospects in Chicago hospitals for detox treatment, and brought other alcoholics he found in the Sterling area to Chicago meetings.

The Wednesday night meetings of the Sterling Group began in Ken S.’s home in 1943. Coffee, cake, and light games of cards usually followed the AA meeting, and families were included

on many occasions. No regular collection was taken but individual members contributed to the group when needed. The number of members reported to the New York office in winter 1943 was three...

The members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Northern Illinois Area can consider Ken S. of Sterling as our earliest sober member and effective AA group servant. His example begins with selflessly carrying the message of AA recovery to others and encouraging the start of new groups. His early service, maintaining the Sterling Group’s linkage with the rest of AA as a whole, contributed a large amount to the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous in northwestern Illinois...

All available records show that the Sterling Group start, in the winter of 1943, remains the first registered AA group within the current borders of NIA (*Northern Illinois Area 20*).

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	AA Brief History of AA in Dubuque (part 1) In commemoration of 80 years of A.A. in Dubuque, Iowa	

*The following is taken from the 2010 edition written for District 11, Area24, copyright 2009, with the author's disclaimer: 'The facts presented in the publication herein are subject to possible unintentional misrepresentation.'*

## PART ONE: Dubuque A.A.

### The Early Years

“One drunk helping another drunk”, is what my sponsor always told me is the true kindred spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous. Indeed the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Dubuque, Iowa (and thousands of communities throughout the world for that matter) is based on this universal and fundamental truth. The fourth edition of the “Big Book” of Alcoholics Anonymous starts with the Doctor’s Opinion. Dr. William D. Silkworth writes, “We feel after many years of experience that we have found nothing which has contributed more to the rehabilitation of these men than the altruistic movement now growing up among them (p. xxviii).”

A few years after the “Big Book” was first published (1939) the first A.A. meeting in Iowa was held in an attorney’s office in Des Moines on October 29, 1943 [1]. The Des Moines attorney was Ray H. who later became a judge. Ray was assisted by some alcoholics from Omaha.

In a community about 200 miles to the east on the Mississippi River there was another lawyer who was struggling with “John Barleycorn.” Louie F., who later became known as the “Little Judge” was formally educated in Iowa and at Notre Dame during the Great Depression. Louie’s wife wrote to the City of New York Department of Welfare about her husband’s drinking problem. In a letter dated September 20, 1944 that New York office directed her to the Alcoholics Anonymous chapter in Sioux City, Iowa. It was about this time that Louie read about Alcoholics Anonymous in Argosy magazine. From a letter, with letterhead of the Sioux City, A.A. group, Louie was directed to Ray H. in Des Moines at the Fleming Building. The letter was dated September 25, 1944. Shortly thereafter, Louie attained permanent sobriety on January 27, 1945. And on January 29, 1945, Louie wrote a letter to make arrangements to meet Ray H. in Des Moines. Louie soon rode the train on a number of occasions from Dubuque

to Des Moines for his first A.A. meetings. Louie was so impressed with Alcoholics Anonymous that he wanted to relocate from Dubuque to Des Moines. However, based on a September 29, 2008 interview with a member of Louie’s family, Ray H. purportedly instructed Louie by saying, “Go back to where alcohol beat you so you can beat it.” Thus the seed of recovery was planted in Iowa’s “Key City.” That seed of hope was nurtured, beginning in February 1945 by an A.A. delegation from Des Moines who assisted Louie at Dubuque’s organizational meeting.

Those early Dubuque A.A. meetings were held either in Louie’s law office at 815 Locust St. which was located in the Roshek Building or his private residence on S. Grandview Ave. His law office was located at the southwest corner of the Roshek building on the 8th floor facing Locust Street. At this time Louie was also a police judge. In the spring of 1945, The Retreatant, a Catholic periodical, reported the existence of the new A.A. group in Dubuque. The earliest record of his first speaking engagement was in September 1945 at the Blackhawk Hotel in Rock Island. In October 1945, an A.A. gathering was held at the Melody Mill north of Dubuque. This special celebration consisted of about 200 persons from 19 cities including 8 states.

Years later the “Little Judge” confessed, “not even the drunks would associate with us.” The Dubuque Fellowship Club at one time possessed a black and white photograph of the pioneer members from the Dubuque area. The group photo included about 8 members wearing suits and ties in accordance with the dress style of the 1940’s.

Included in that photo was Al L. who published the Alanews from 1945-1962. In October 1951 a collection of his writings from the Alanews entitled, *The Missing Link, a message of recovery* reads: “Between a life of uncontrolled drinking and a life of complete sobriety there is a Missing Link. Many, many thousands of men and women have found Alcoholics Anonymous to be that Missing Link. The Link does not blend the two areas of living nor does it permit a controlled pattern

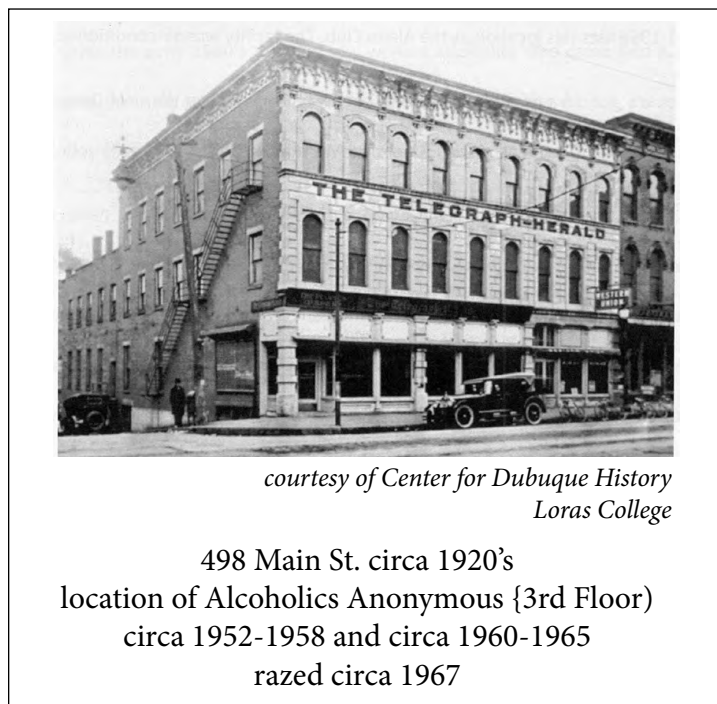
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[1] From the Fall edition, “A Brief History of A.A. in Des Moines and origin of the White House 1977.”  
District 11 archives collection

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	<b>AA Brief History of AA in Dubuque (part 1)</b> In commemoration of 80 years of A.A. in Dubuque, Iowa	

of drinking. It serves both as a barrier and a bridge between the areas and at the same time reminds us of the proximity of the uncontrolled area to the area of complete sobriety.” In the 1958 City Directory, Al was listed as the clubroom manager of the A.A. club at 498 Main St. Al was an editor of the Telegraph Herald who later became an acting postmaster. He died in December 1962.

The earliest listing of Dubuque A.A. in the City Directory appears in 1948. That address was W. 9th and Main Streets. The A.A. clubroom was in room 326 of the B and I building, now known as the Fischer Building. They subsequently moved in 1952. That address was 498 Main St. The A.A. clubroom was on the 3rd floor of the Hoermann Press building.



According to the 1959 City Directory the next A.A. location was 998 Central Ave. However, this location was short lived because the following year (1960) the group was forced to move. The move was necessitated because a Ford automobile dealership was built replacing the building that housed the A.A. club. Universal Motors later became Jaeger Hardware. That building was still standing in 2009. One group, including Al, returned to the location at 498 Main St. And a second group, including Louie, moved to the present day location of

the Dubuque Fellowship Club at 1166 Main St. (lower level). The Dubuque City Directories from 1961-1968 lists this location as the Alano Club. The facility was air conditioned.

Louie's good friend and medical advisor was Dr. Donovan Ward of Dubuque. Dr. Ward was president of the American Medical Association when alcoholism was recognized as a disease in 1964 [2].

Louie was an Area 24 (state of Iowa) delegate to New York from 1953-1954. Al was also an Area 24 delegate to New York from 1959-1960. And years later it is interesting to note that Terry C., from Dubuque, was also an Area 24 delegate (2005-2006).

The “Little Judge” liked to contrast Christ in the New Testament to Alcoholics Anonymous. Louie allegedly noted that Jesus performed the miracle of making the blind see. But the former blind person could not pass on the miracle. However, in A.A. a recovering alcoholic helps another alcoholic achieve sobriety which in turn allows the newly recovered alcoholic to pass on the miracle of sobriety to the next suffering alcoholic and so on.

During the early 1960's the very few women alcoholics who came into A.A. in the Dubuque area were sent either to Al-Anon or to the wives of A.A. members. This was about the time that Al-Anon came to Dubuque.

In 1965, a 20 year A.A. anniversary party was held for Louie. A letter dated June 28th, 1965 (possessed by the District 11 archives) stated that nearly 400 people came to Dubuque (with some as far as Nebraska) “last Saturday night to honor a little guy who came to a meeting, like what he heard, was smart enough to absorb it and is now over 20 years without a drink.” The letter was signed by Hildagarde, which was a code name for Judge Ray. H.

*Next month: **The Founders Group***

[2] *Here comes Doctor Ward: a climb to glory, by Howard E. Cartwright, Chicago Spectrum Press, 1994.*



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

Dubuque Area Intergroup Presents:  
**“The Gathering of The Eagles”**



**Saturday, March 22, 2025**  
**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**2155 University Avenue**

**AA Speaker: Terry C**  
**Al-Anon Speaker: Brenda C**

**Doors open at 4:30, Dinner at 5:00 pm**  
**Kalmes Catering**

**Dinner followed by Speakers, then Raffle**  
**\$20 at the Door**  
**Please Bring a Raffle Donation**

**No one will be turned away for lack of funds.**

**Dubuque, March 22**

**MARCH 28, 29 & 30**  
**2025**



**ROUNDUP**  
**“Follow The Path”**  
**to be held at the**

**Quality Inn & Suites — 2601 E 13th Street, Ames Iowa**

**Friday, March 28**  
 Yvonne S. – Los Angeles, CA (A.A.) ..... 8:00 p.m.  
 Followed by Ice Cream Social, Big Book Trivia and Al-Anon Meeting

**Saturday, March 29**  
 Germaine L.B. – Rapid City, SD (Al-Anon) ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Jeff M. – Helena, MT (A.A.) ..... 1:00 p.m.  
 Followed by Kelly P. – Helena, MT (Al-Anon)  
 David M. – Bethlehem, PA (A.A.) ..... 7:30 p.m.  
 Followed by Dance

**Sunday, March 30**  
 Beth B. – Omaha, NE (A.A.) ..... 10:00 a.m.

American Sign Language (ASL) provided for all speaker meetings

**Preregistrations must be received by March 17, 2025**

Ask for Rooming rates when you call the hotel for room reservation

Rooms \$109.99 plus tax

Quality Inn & Suites (515) 233-9260

For Hospitality Rooms contact Sandy E. (515) 231-5632

Hotel reservations must be made by March 17, 2025 and must be made by calling hotel directly. “HOTEL HAS A 7 DAY CANCELLATION POLICY”

NO VENDORS ALLOWED

AIM FOR AMES ROUNDUP REGISTRATION

Please preregister. Roundup Registration: \$25 EA AA/Al-Anon Attendees. Enclose this form with your Registration. Preregistrations must be received by March 17, 2025.

Check here if you are having impaired and need an interpreter; your registration must be received by March 15, 2025.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ☐ AA ☐ AL-ANON ☐ OTHER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ☐ AA ☐ AL-ANON ☐ OTHER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ☐ AA ☐ AL-ANON ☐ OTHER

Get the Keys To The Kingdom at...

# ISCYPAA XLII

**MARCH 28TH-30TH, 2025**

WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD CITY CENTRE  
 700 E ADAMS ST, SPRINGFIELD, IL

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE! AND BOOK YOUR ROOM!

**Springfield, IL - March 28-30**

**Ames, March 28-30**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**12 Step Weekend**

**JUNE 6,7,8 2025**  
**Bishop Lane Retreat Center**  
**7708 E MCGREGOR RD, ROCKFORD, IL 61102**

Plan to Join us for a spiritual weekend

**Rockford, IL–June 6-8**

**2025 Area 24 Spring Conference**  
 Hosted by District 14 Best Western Holiday Lodge  
 June 13-15, 2025 2023 7th Ave N Clear Lake, IA 50428

**Road of Happy Destiny**

**Friday, June 13**  
 6:45-7:45 PM Officer and Chair Sharing Session  
 8:00-9:00 PM Sharing Sessions: DCH, GSR, and Area Officers  
 9:45-11:15 PM Workshops – Archives, Corrections, Newsletter, and FI

**Saturday, June 14**  
 7:15-8:15 AM Early Bird AA meeting  
 8:30-11:15 AM Area Business Meeting  
 11:30-1:30 PM Luncheon–Al-anon Speaker: Lorell R. from Clinton, IA, and Alabon speaker: TBA  
 1:45-5:30 PM Area Business Meeting

**Sunday, June 15**  
 6:45-7:45 AM Early Bird Meeting  
 8:00-9:00 AM Conference Committee Workshop: TBA  
 9:15-10:15 AM Past Delegate “Ask It Basket”  
 9:15-10:15 AM Area Officers and Chairs Transition Meeting  
 10:30-11:30 AM AA Spiritual Speaker: Derek S. from Omaha, NE

**Pre-Registration Form – Area 24 2025 Spring Conference – Due by May 20, 2025**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Box – Due by May 1

☐ Spanish Interpreter

☐ ASL Interpreter

Adults	\$30 Pre-Registration	\$35 At Door	Check One
Admission	\$10		<input type="checkbox"/> AA
Pre-Registration Meal	\$20 Lunch	\$20 Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon
At Door Meal	\$20 Lunch	\$20 Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon
Total			<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian

Make Checks Payable to Area 24 Spring Conference and mail to PO Box 485, Buffalo Center, IA 50424-0485

**Clear Lake, June 13-15**

**Planning is Underway**

**Canoe trip on Maquoketa River. June 28-29, tentative date of July 12-13th.**


**Monticello River Rentals (8-hour canoe trip). It ends at Picture Rock County Park, and we could have a meeting and cookout at the end.**

**Interested? contact**  
**Marc R. (563) 543-3218**

[area24district11activities@gmail.com](mailto:area24district11activities@gmail.com)

**Maquoketa River, June 28-29**

Downloadable copies of many of these events are at [Dubuqueaa.org](http://Dubuqueaa.org)



**2025 Area 24 Spring Conference**  
 Hosted by District 14  
 June 13-15, 2025

***Road of Happy Destiny***

**Friday, June 13**  
 6:45-7:45 PM Officer and Chair Sharing Session  
 8:00-9:00 PM Sharing Sessions: DCM, GSR, and Area Officers  
 9:45-11:15 PM Workshops – Archives, Corrections, Newsletter, and PJ  
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 7:15-8:15 AM Early Bird AA meeting  
 8:30-11:15 AM Area Business Meeting  
 11:30-1:30 PM Luncheon—Al-Anon Speaker: Lorell R. from Clarion, IA, and Alateen speaker: TBA  
 1:45-5:30 PM Area Business Meeting

**Sunday, June 15**  
 6:45-7:45 AM Early Bird Meeting  
 8:00-9:00 AM Conference Committee Workshops: TBA  
 9:15-10:15 AM Past Delegate “Ask It Basket”  
 9:15-10:15 AM Area Officers and Chairs Transition Meeting  
 10:30-11:30 AM AA Spiritual Speaker: Derek S. from Omaha, NE

**6:30 PM Banquet, AA Speaker:** Ann J. from Des Moines, IA, and entertainment: TBA  
 9:30-11:00 PM Workshops—CPC, Grapevine, Literature, and Treatment  
 11:15-12:15 PM Candlelight Meeting

**Pre-Registration Form – Area 24 2025 Spring Conference - Due by May 20, 2025**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Box – Due by May 1

☐ Spanish Interpreter

☐ ASL Interpreter

Admission	\$30 Pre-Registration	\$30 At Door	Check One
Al-Anon	\$10		<input type="checkbox"/> AA
Pre-Registration Meal	\$20 Lunch	\$25 Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon
At Door Meal	\$25 Lunch	\$30 Banquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Alateen
Total			<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian

Make Checks Payable to Area 24 Spring Conference and mail to PO Box 465, Buffalo Center, IA 50424-0465

Rockford, IL–June 13-15



**AREA 24**

**Fall Conference**

**October 17, 18, 19, 2025**

STARLITE BEST WESTERN, 1518 3<sup>rd</sup> AVENUE NW, JUNCTION HWYS 169 & 7, FORT DODGE, IOWA

**The *PLANNING COMMITTEE***  
 for this event is held every 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Saturday of each month at 1:15PM

**1408 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**  
**Fort Dodge**

*CHAIR: Jim C.*

Fort Dodge, October 17-19

**District 11/Area 24**

**2025 Fall Mini Conference**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, November 8th**

**“Power Greater than Ourselves”**  
 at Westminster Presbyterian Church  
 2155 University Ave., Dubuque

**Service Positions are Available**

**For ways you can Serve**  
 contact  
 Chuck E., Conf. Chair (815) 281-9050  
 or Keith K., DCM (815) 281-1591

Dubuque, November 8

Downloadable copies of many of these events are at [Dubuqueaa.org](http://Dubuqueaa.org)

March 2025	Area 24–District 11 News	Issue #10
	Thoughts of Interest in District 11/Area 24	

#### From the Editors:

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the Dubuque Area Intergroup and its website, [DubuqueAA.org](http://DubuqueAA.org), which hosts the District 11 Messenger newsletter, events and AA Meeting Schedules. Thank you Dubuque Area Intergroup, for all 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](mailto: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 • Epworth • Hopkinton  
Manchester • Maquoketa • Peosta

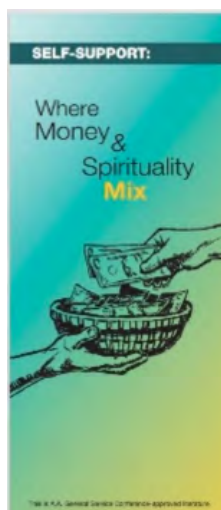
##### – Illinois –

Elizabeth • Galena

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.  
All Individual contributions from  
AA members are gratefully accepted.**

#### **Contributions may be made to all of these AA organizations:**

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