Save the Date! Washtenaw County Celebrates 68 Years of AA

Huron Valley Area Intergroup has just confirmed that the annual anniversary party will take place on May 18, 2013, at Liberty Middle School in Saline.

The 2013 celebration will feature a panel, dinner and an open talk.

The 2012 Anniversary Party was also held at Liberty School, and attendees appreciated the ease of access auditorium.

Help us celebrate 68 years of AA in Washtenaw County by volunteering to help with the 2013 annual Anniversary Party.

- Decorations
- Food
- Promotions
- Day-of-event staffing
- Transportation of materials (food, tables, etc.)

For more information, please contact linda@hvai.org.

Step Two

Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity,

Tradition One

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

HVAI Service Center Sells Big Books, 12&12s At-Cost

Many AAs are unaware that the HVAI Service Center sells Big Books and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12&12s) at catalogue price, with no markup. HVAI does this to ensure that current and prospective members have local access to vital materials, bypassing the need to pay the shipping and handling that online purchases require.

Through the support of local AA groups, HVAI also provides literature to local jails and prisons. Every Big Book that is placed in a prisoner’s hands comes directly from the “jail pail” contributions of local groups and other donations.

Save on Shipping! Order your AA literature through the HVAI Office.

Save it on Shipping!

HVAI 2013 Service Center Recap

1745 Big Books Sold
1105 12 and 12s Sold
5000+ monthly visitors to hvai.org

“The Spiritual Angle”

“How often do we sit in AA meetings and hear the speaker declare, “But I haven’t yet got the spiritual angle.” Prior to this statement, he has described a miracle of transformation that has occurred in him — not only his release from alcohol, but a complete change and his whole attitude of life and the living of it.

It is apparent to everyone else present that he has received a great gift, and this gift is all out of proportion to anything that may be expected from simple AA participation.

So we in the audience smile and say to ourselves, “Well, that guy is just reeking with the spiritual angle — except that he doesn’t seem to know it yet.” — Bill W.

Reprinted from As Bill Sees It, page 101, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.
**Frequently Asked Questions About AA’s History:**

**Q: What Is the History Behind AA’s Responsibility Statement?**

A. The Responsibility Statement reads:

> I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

It was written for the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto.]

In a Grapevine article in October 1965, the Responsibility Statement is discussed, and Bill W. expresses his views:

“Two major thoughts stood out in the remarks of the many speakers, alcoholic and nonalcoholic, at AA’s July Toronto Convention. The first was admiration and gratitude for AA’s startling success in sobering up hundreds of thousands of lost-cause drunks. The other was concern that the success which has come to AA over the thirty years since its start in Akron, Ohio in 1935 would not lead us to any complacency about the size of the job still to be done.”

The theme of the Convention was: Responsibility. “I am responsible…when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

AA’s co-founder, Bill, in his talk to over 10,000 attending the major sessions of the Convention, stressed the need for cooperation with all who work on the problem of alcoholism, the more than 100 agencies in the United States and Canada alone now engaged in research, alcohol education and rehabilitation.

> “Too often, we have deprecated and even derided these projects of our friends just because we do not always see eye to eye with them,” Bill said. “We should very seriously ask ourselves how many alcoholics have gone on drinking simply because we have failed to cooperate in good spirit with these many agencies. No alcoholic should go mad or die merely because he did not come straight to AA in the beginning.”

> “The first concern of AA members should be with problem drinkers the movement is still unable to reach,” Bill said. “Yet it would be conservative to estimate that at any particular time there are four million alcoholics in the world who are able, ready and willing to get well if only they knew how. When we remember that in the 30 years of AA’s existence we have reached less than ten per cent of those who might have been willing to approach us, we begin to get an idea of the immensity of our task and of the responsibilities with which we will always be confronted.”

http://www.aa.org/subpage.cfm?page=287

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**12-Step Humor…**

Johnny B. is struggling with recovery and, as luck would have it, he is pulled over by a policeman the one time he slips up.

“Sir, I smell alcohol on your breath. Have you been drinking today?”

“Well, officer, you’d be drinking too if you’d just killed your wife.”

“WHAT!? Are you confessing to murder?”

“The handgun is hidden under the seat. In the glove box, I stashed the heroin and a syringe I used to knock her out. Her body, bless her soul, is wrapped in a sheet in the trunk of the car.”

The officer, stunned, handcuffs Johnny B. and calls for his sergeant. The sergeant arrives, takes the car keys and opens the trunk.

“There’s no body in here,” he says to the patrolman. “I thought you said there was a homicide?”

The sergeant then looks in the glove box.

“There isn’t any heroin and there’s no syringe,” he says. He then searches under the seat. “And no gun either.”

The sergeant turns to Johnny B. for an explanation.

“Gee, I bet he said I was drinking too.

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**My Story: Afraid of Life on Life’s Terms**

For most of my life, I was searching for something that would make me feel whole. I had the never-ending problem of emptiness and inadequacy that relationships, self hatred – and eventually substance abuse – could not solve. The only relief I have found thus far in my life has been working the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I had used up all the answers I was able to think of; not one of them made my situation better. I was doing my best not to feel the desperation of my empty life for so long, that now that I am working this program of recovery, I can hardly believe how I got so scared of life.

Through these steps, I have discovered that I was afraid of something I had never tried before: life on life’s terms. I didn’t know how live. The entire world was loneliness and pain. Not because I am cursed, but because I am alcoholic. If I am willing to let go and let God, then every day is a new day. I wake up and pray for God’s guidance the entire world is filled with only possibility and light. I am truly living for the first time.

— Dominic E., Ann Arbor
My Story: Reflections on Step 11

While I think all the steps are important, my favorite — by far and away — is Step 11, “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him.” It seems like meditation is something that we alcoholics often ignore, sometimes with disastrous results.

It’s important to take a little time out of our days and devote it to prayer and meditation; to take the time is what this step is all about. If we are going to have a Higher Power, what could be possible be more important than coming into contact with Him every day?

The second clause of the step, “praying only for knowledge of His will...” is crucial. In its simplicity, this Step demands that we simply ask for His will and then simply be willing to do something about it.

To ignore the pains of human suffering that are everywhere is inexcusable. We should be striving for the willingness to reasonably approach others in a kind and caring way.

This, of course, leads to Step 12, which is to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. And you can find them everywhere, if you look.

— Matt V.
Ann Arbor

Meeting Updates

- **New** Meeting: Ann Arbor, Tues. @ 12:30 pm, Mothers in Recovery, Word of God Ministries, 3800 Packard.

- **New** Meeting: Ann Arbor, Fri. @ 7:30 pm; Read Time at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- **New** Meeting: Ann Arbor, Mon @ 9am at the WAC, 995 N Maple

- **New** Meeting: Clinton, Sun @ 6 pm, Sisters in Sobriety

- **New** Meeting: Milan, Wed. @ 5:30 pm; Read Time at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2909 W. Genesee St., Lansing.

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Many thanks to HVAI's January 2013 7th Tradition Contributions!

Through your support we are able to maintain the website, meeting directories, help line, HVAI Bookstore and provide service to local alcoholics.

- 12 Step Group (Belville)
- A Vision for You (Ann Arbor)
- Alano Club (Ann Arbor)
- BB-St.John (Westland)
- Dexter Group (Dexter)
- Early Birds (Ann Arbor)
- Fri. Night Group (Ann Arbor)
- Last Chance Group (Saline)
- Livesavers (Saline)
- Open AA Study (Ann Arbor)
- Sisters (Ann Arbor)
- Spiritual Awakenings (Ann Arbor)
- Spiritual Solution (Ann Arbor)
- Stadium 12/12 (Ann Arbor)
- Stadium Big Book (Ann Arbor)
- Sunrise (Saline)
- Sunshine Group (Chelsea)
- T.G.I.M.A.A. (Ann Arbor)
- Fellowship Group (Ypsilanti)
- There is a Solution (Ann Arbor)
- Wed. @ Westside (Ann Arbor)