

DISTRICT 43 GROUPVINE

Unity | Service | Recovery

Fellowship

Alcoholics are loners by nature. Many of us were isolated in our last days of drinking. We made a conscious decision to stop communicating with everyone around us. So, when coming into the halls of AA for the first time, communicating and opening up didn't come naturally. We had to gradually ease our way back in - to social settings and life in general. Once we learned to trust and share again, we found that the FELLOWSHIP of AA was as magical as the steps, traditions, big book, and meetings.

I was lucky to have an ally alongside me from the very start. A high school friend of mine had 6 months of sobriety when we found ourselves on the same road to recovery. He showed me the way - not as a sponsor - but as a friend who wanted sobriety as much as I did. We were practically inseparable for my first two years in the program. We did sobriety and life together.

So often during that time we'd never discuss drinking or alcoholism. But, being in the same room as another alcoholic was often enough. We had an unspoken understanding, comfort and peace of mind by just being PRESENT.

I was recently reminded of the soothing presence of another alcoholic. A friend of mine in the program is also a very skilled handyman. He recently led a 2-week project at my home. Since I work from home most days, we got to spend time together. We talked of AA-related things occasionally, but our recovery was never the main topic. It was just easy conversation - about anything. But the conversations were soothing to the soul.

From the chapter "Working with others", the Big Book reminds us that "Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives." It goes on to say, "While you were drinking, you were withdrawing from life little by little. Now you are getting back into the social life of this world."

Fellowship and unity are cornerstones of AA. We need each other to lean on, talk to, and learn from. Whether it's before or after a meeting, in the local coffee shop, or over the phone, the ear of another alcoholic is priceless. Few people understand us like a fellow alcoholic!



FUNNY BUSINESS

Here's a life hack that might help you one day. Did you know you can turn a couch into a sleeper sofa by simply forgetting the birthday of your spouse or significant other?

A King and Queen walk into a bar. The bartender says, "sorry, you must be 21"

There's a new group of people going door to door telling folks about the good news of exercising. The group is Jehovah's Fitness

A judge says to a man, "you're going to prison for forgery". The man slips the judge a \$25 bill and says, "what about now?"

How deep would the oceans be if sponges didn't live there?

Remembering The 4th Month

Step 4:

Made a fearless and searching inventory of ourselves.

Tradition 4:

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

Save the Dates!

Visit the [EVENTS Page on the District 43 website for flyers and more information!](#)

aa-nia-dist43.org

Friday, April 14- Sunday, April 16

AA Men's Retreat

Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center
Donaldson, IN.

NEW DATE AND TIME!

Wednesday, April 19th 7-8pm

District 43 Business Meeting

ZOOM Meeting ID: 965 6659 0236

Password: 932879



A.A. members in District 43 of Northern Illinois publish this newsletter. Its mission is to keep members informed of local events and service activities, to share experiences and strength in recovery from alcoholism, and its impact on our families. Opinions expressed in Groupvine are those of their authors only and not necessarily those of A.A. Send articles, ideas, or questions to: district43groupvine@gmail.com. Your comments are most welcome and encouraged.