

DISTRICT 43 GROUPVINE

Unity | Service | Recovery

The Triangle

I witnessed something at an AA meeting the other day that blew my mind. It was the principles of unity, service and recovery all rolled into a single meeting. It wasn't intentional or planned. It just happened.

The meeting was being led by a volunteer with more than 30 years of sobriety. As the meeting leader, he was prepared to give a short lead on the topic of his choice. As the format of the meeting unfolded, it was discovered that a person was in attendance for their *very first* AA meeting, ever. By default, the meeting format changed to a first step meeting. It was also discovered that a different person was at the meeting for the first time.

The leader of the meeting kicked things off by reading a section from the Big Book, the "A Vision for You" chapter. Excerpts from this chapter include pearls of wisdom, such as: "Never could we recapture the great moments of the past. There was an insistent yearning to enjoy life as we once did and a heartbreaking obsession that some new miracle of control would enable us to do it. There was always one more attempt—and one more failure", and, "Some day he will be unable to imagine life either with alcohol or without it. Then he will know loneliness such as few do. He will be at the jumping-off place. He will wish for the end." Powerful words for any of us – and especially powerful for a newcomer.

The meeting commenced with great comments from the group. Experience, strength and hope were the themes being shared. The newcomer was clearly choked up and moved by what was being said.

With fifteen minutes left in the meeting, the person that was at the meeting for the first time (not the newcomer) spoke up. The person shared they had relapsed in recent days after a significant period of sobriety. They pointed out the triggers – not going to meetings, not calling others in the program, not working with their sponsor, etc.

The drinking was ultimately set off by an argument or resentment that led to the bottle. But the person highlighted that the program works, it had worked, and they were not willing to go back to their old way of life. Thankfully, they chose to attend the meeting that night and jump back into recovery.

At the end of the meeting the newcomer spoke. Not surprisingly, they were not on a "winning streak" that led them to the first meeting. Life and drinking were both becoming a challenge.

What blew my mind were the "coincidences" that happened simultaneously that night. The meeting was being led by a seasoned veteran who knew how to structure the meeting, pick the perfect reading and put the newcomer at ease. The person that had relapsed illustrated that the program *works if you work it*, but that sobriety is never guaranteed and comes one day at a time. And for the newcomer, **unity, service and recovery** were on full display. They were approached by a handful of people after the meeting that provided a Big Book, a list of phone numbers and the list of local meetings.

Let's be honest. It wasn't a coincidence. I believe that our Higher Power – someone/something greater than ourselves – orchestrated all of it to happen. I was in awe and filled with gratitude.



FUNNY BUSINESS



I'm a lazy cook so I prefer Canada recipes: a canada tomatoes, a canada beans, a canada corn...

When the French swear, do they say, "pardon my English"?

I'm a member of a driving instructor club. We meet daily at 10 and 2.

I had a Russian Uber driver yesterday. His name was Peckup Andropov.

I'm hiding from exercise and have entered the fitness protection program.

Save the Dates!

Visit the **CALENDAR** page on the District 43 website for flyers and more information!

aa-nia-dist43.org

Wednesday, August 16th, 7-8pm

District 43 Business Meeting

ZOOM Meeting ID: 965 6659 0236

Password: 932879

Friday, August 25 (4p) - Sunday, Aug. 27

Closed AA Women's Retreat

Oregon, IL

Details below

A WOMEN'S RETREAT
HOSTED BY THE FLYING GEESSE



**AUGUST
 25, 26, AND 27**

**Check-in begins
 4pm Friday 8/25**

This is a **closed retreat for women in AA** which includes program meetings, meals (Friday evening through Sunday morning) and dormitory lodging for only **\$140**. Fill out the bottom portion of this form to register and mail to the address on the bottom or scan the QR code for digital registration. Email flyinggeese2000@gmail.com with questions.

- **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION** IS AUGUST 4, 2023
- **REGISTRATION CONTACT:** SARAH H. 312-351-3729. KAREN W. 630-209-6181
- **RETREAT CHAIR:** LISA W. 331-262-7683

LOCATION:
 LORADO TAFT FIELD CAMPUS
 1414 N. RIVER RD.
 OREGON, IL 61061

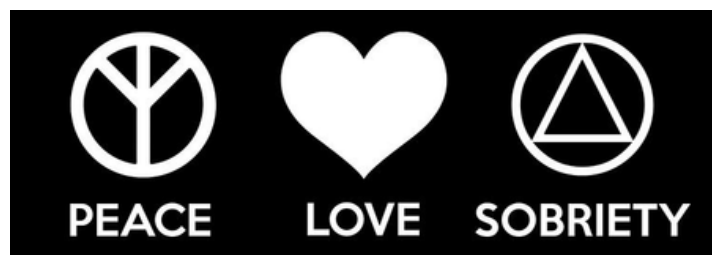
Remembering The 8th Month

Step 8:

Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all

Tradition 8:

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.



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.