

# DISTRICT 43 GROUPVINE

Unity | Service | Recovery

## A Universal Disease

Following is an excerpt from a recovering alcoholic in Great Britain. The full article can be found [here](#). The universal nature of our disease never ceases to amaze me. How cultures and countries - different in so many - share the commonalities of alcoholism and recovery via Alcoholics Anonymous.

“I had one ‘friend’ left. A neighbor who brought food for the kids, gave me money. She told me one Sunday morning that I had to do something or she’d have to walk away. She just couldn’t watch it any more. I don’t know what it was that pushed me to make the phone call to AA. Thank God for those AA members in service, people at the end of the phone 24/7 to handle calls from people like me, with nowhere left to go, no more excuses.

Within a couple of hours, two members of Alcoholics Anonymous were in my living room, curtains drawn, vodka tears and snot running. They were not interested in my problems. They told me about the way they drank and I knew they were like me. I’d never admitted it to anybody. They told me about alcoholism, the physical allergy which meant that once I had one drink I was unable to stop. The mental obsession which meant that I couldn’t leave it alone, no matter how bad it got. The spiritual malady which led to the terrible dark loneliness and terror.

These people told me that they had found a way to stop drinking in AA and that their lives had changed for the better and they were happy. I don’t know why but I believed them. I did as they suggested. I went to a meeting near me, started going to others, started working the Steps. After a short time, the desire to drink left me and has not returned. My life has changed in ways that are beyond belief. I have faith in the future and I’m no longer ashamed of my past. I’m so grateful for the chance to live free from the obsession with alcohol”. - Annie

(2023), Annie's Story, Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain and English Speaking Continental Europe, (12/1/23), <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/newcomers/members'-stories/annie-s-story>

We’ve all had it happen in a meeting - someone else tells our story or brings up something that hits home personally. Just when we think we are “unique”, we discover that we are not. People thousands of miles away wrestle with life and sobriety in the same ways we do.

Our disease is universal. Thankfully, our collective recovery is too.



## ***FUNNY BUSINESS***



What do you get when you wake up and realize you ran out of coffee? A Depresso.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A stick.

How many men and women were born in 2023? None. Only babies were born.

What is a tree's favorite drink? Root beer!

If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?

## **Remembering the 12th Month**

### **Step 12:**

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

### **Tradition 12:**

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

## **Save the Dates!**

Visit the **CALENDAR** page on the **District 43** website for event information, flyers and more!  
[aa-nia-dist43.org](http://aa-nia-dist43.org)

***Wednesday, December 20th, 7-8p***

***District 43 Business Meeting***

***ZOOM Meeting ID: 965 6659 0236***

***Password: 932879***

***Service positions are still available!***



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](mailto:district43groupvine@gmail.com). Your comments are most welcome and encouraged.