

GROUPVINE



February
2025
A.A. Newsletter
Volume 133

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STEP 2
“Came to **believe** that
a power greater than
ourselves could
restore us to **sanity**.”

WHO IS THIS GOD OF MY UNDERSTANDING?

I was sitting by a nice warm fire on a cold winter night in the year 2014. My sponsor had told me earlier in the week that I needed to get more involved at the District level with Service. We all know how that sponsor/ Sponsee relationship goes. I thought I had been doing pretty good since coming back into the program in 2005. I reminded him that I had been a treasurer for two groups during the past six years. I told him I was currently serving as a GSR for one of those groups. I even reminded him that I knew how to make coffee and of course, how to set up chairs and clean ashtrays. None of that seemed to keep him from continuing. So, at the next District 43 meeting, I volunteered to take on the service position of “Groupvine Editor“. The position had been open for a while so the need was there. I had never written a newsletter before. Other than college papers I had never really done any amount of writing. But the wisdom of my sponsor said that my program would improve and I would be drawn closer to my higher power by doing this kind of service work.

Of course he was right and I ended up being the Groupvine Editor for six years.

72 issues and with each one I came to believe that he was a very smart person.

One of my early writings was called, “The Terry Cloth Robe“. It involved a description of my thoughts on a higher power. And it went like this.

“The Terry Cloth Robe”

Everyone can and should have their own concept of what God is. It is such an important part of our recovery. A Higher Power, greater than ourselves as it says in step two. A Higher Power that I can “turn my will and my life over to the care of” as it says in step three. My sponsor told me about HIS concept of a Higher Power. He told me to write about MY concept. I had been through so much pain and defeat that when I came into the program I wasn’t sure if ANY power could be strong enough to break the cycle of alcohol addiction. So I started writing.

I wanted to believe that a power greater than ME could help me with this terrible curse. My body was telling me that I could no longer drink but my brain was saying that I could if I just made some changes. You know, the usual changes. Try drinking only beer. Or drink only every other day. All of the goofy thinking that of course did not do one bit of good to solve my drinking “problem”. I was told that if I could just believe in a Higher Power that I would not be alone in the battle. Hmmm, now what would I want for a Higher Power?

I was told to pick my own concept of a Higher Power. When I tried to imagine what that might be, I thought of a loving Father. A loving Father dressed in a soft warm “terry cloth robe“. A Father I could go to and be wrapped in that warm robe. A Father I could talk to and be comforted by that warm feeling. A Father that could believe in me and make everything right. At the end of every meeting, I say the words we all say, “Our Father.....”, and somehow, I can feel the “terry cloth robe” wrapping around me, and I know that for this day, I can be alright.

John O.

Walk with Dignity and Grace

Vancouver 2025

Language of the Heart July 3-6 2025
International Vancouver | British
Convention: Columbia, Canada
Alcoholics Anonymous



“The walk” Step Meeting:
Held every Sunday
through Sunday, April 13th
Naperville Riverfront
(meet at the gazebo)

Located at the corner
Mill and Jackson Street
For further information
see flyer/calendar events
on the D43 website.

 A.A. members in District 43 of Northern Illinois publish this newsletter. Admissions are to keep members informed of local events, service activities and to share experiences and strength in recovery from alcoholism, and its impact on our families. Ideas are those of the authors and not necessarily those of A.A. PLEASE SEND US any articles, ideas, or questions to groupvineeditor@gmail.com. Comments are most welcomed and encouraged! 



As Bill Sees it:

“Your point of view was once mine. Fortunately, A.A. is constructed so that we need not debate the existence of God; but for best results, most of us depend upon a Higher Power.

You say “the group” is your Higher Power, and no right minded A.A. would challenge your privilege to believe precisely that way. We should all be glad that good recoveries can be made even on this limited basis.”

W, Bill. **As Bill Sees It.** New York: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, 1967, p. 283.



**14th Annual DuPage Open
February 15th**
Parkview Community Church
764 St. Charles Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Doors open at 6pm

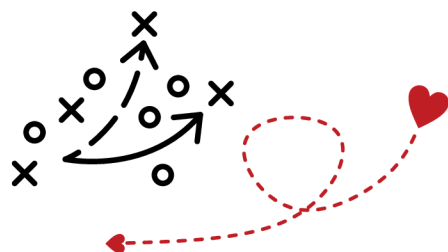
**Open Speaker Meeting 7 to 8:30 pm
THERE WILL BE THREE SPEAKERS:**

1 - 5 Years 6 - 19 Years 20 + Years

**This Event is Sponsored by
Districts 40, 41, 42 & 43**
**For information or to volunteer contact:
dupagecountyopen@gmail.com**

**February 16th
Foxhall Anniversary**
6- 8:30 p.m.
Digital Flyer As always,
The Foxhall Meeting anniversary is also available on Zoom.
Meeting ID: 938 369 2314
Password: 583339

**February 19th
District 43 Monthly Business meeting**
7-8 p.m.
(Third Wednesday of each month)
ZOOM MEETING ID: 96566590236
P.W: 932879
All are welcome to attend!



“Never take for granted what it means to be a Volunteer.”

AA Word Search

D	E	A	M	B	I	T	I	O	U	S	O
D	N	O	B	A	A	I	S	U	G	B	P
H	I	U	O	I	S	E	A	I	D	S	I
I	I	R	O	E	E	N	O	U	G	H	N
I	S	K	C	O	L	B	D	A	O	R	I
S	U	G	G	E	S	T	I	O	N	S	O
S	S	A	S	S	L	B	S	R	L	I	N
G	E	O	E	I	U	W	E	I	I	E	O
O	D	I	L	E	M	M	A	N	B	S	O
D	E	R	E	D	L	I	W	E	B	L	O
U	S	O	B	T	D	O	E	E	I	O	T
A	N	N	O	I	S	S	E	S	B	O	N

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| dilemma | obsession | suggestions | opinion |
| enough | roadblocks | bewildered | ambitious |

- **Step 2: Your what are your thoughts?**
- Do you believe that there is an order to the universe or are events random?
- *How do you feel about the spiritual tradition you grew up in?*
- *Did it contribute to your addiction or provide you any aid or comfort?*
- What role does spirituality currently play in your life?



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