

NHAA PIPELINE

A Publication of the NH Area 43 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

February 2015

An Overview of Area 43 Service from the Current Chair

It's 2015 in Area 43!

I was thinking about contributing a story or two for the *Pipeline* about my experience as Chairperson of Area 43 during my term that runs from 2014-2015. And somehow a whole year has gone by ... how did that happen? Yet I realize it always takes me a while in any new service position to get accustomed to it, to learn from both the previous person who held the position and from the collective knowledge of our incredible group of trusted servants at the area and district levels.

I like this time of year in AA service ... our first area meeting is this coming Sunday (Jan. 25th). We meet as a group once a month. That group includes all of Area 43 officers: the chairperson, alt-chairperson, delegate, alt-delegate, treasurer, secretary and registrar; the chairs of the various committees: service office, finance committee, hotline, literature/grapevine, PI/CPC, Pipeline, archives, treatment, corrections, and technology; and most importantly the DCMs (District Committee Members) of all of our districts in the state. Eight times a year we meet at the Hooksett office on the fourth (usually) Sunday of the month (check calendar on our website nhaa.net), and four times a year we meet in other parts of the state depending on which one of our Districts is hosting the Assembly meeting.

A lot of these service positions at the Area level and the group level have long titles. I like the reminder in the A.A. *Group Pamphlet* that the titles in A.A. do not bring authority or honor; they describe services and responsibilities. That's it!

All AAs are welcome to attend *any* of these meetings, and **in particular** the four Assemblies of the year are where your Group's GSR (General Service Representative) represents you at the area level. Encourage your GSRs to attend these four assemblies! Your GSR gets a vote on any and all issues that arise. This is where the individual AA member's voice/opinion/concerns are aired. It is also how our Delegate can take the group conscience of the entire area to the General Service Conference in New York each April where the work of the A.A. World Service & Grapevine Board, and the General Service Office and Grapevine staff, are reported on and actions recommended.

Upcoming Events for

Area 43 in 2015 ...

- **NERAASA 2015, Feb. 20-22** in Somerset, NJ. The purpose of NERAASA is for GSRs, DCMs, Officers & Committee Members and all A.A.s to discuss related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, during a weekend of panel presentations and discussions.
- **NHSCYPAA XVI** (NH State Council on Young People in A.A.) on **March 6-8** at the Marriott Courtyard Grappone Center in Concord, NH. This year's theme: "We Absolutely Insist on Enjoying Life." For the young, young at heart, all A.A.s!
- **Area 43 Pre-Conference Assembly** on Saturday, March 28 from 8am-4pm. Hosted by District 9 (Derry) at the First Congregational Church, 47E Derry Road.
- Don't forget about our own **2015 N.H. Area 43 Convention** to be held on the weekend of April 10-12, 2015 at the North Conway Grand Hotel. Details at nhaa.net.
- **Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)** - Albany, NY, **May 29-31**. The great thing about these regional forums is 1) There is no registration fee; 2) You get to meet with and share experience with representatives of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, and the General Service Office.
- **A.A.'s 14th International Convention and 80th birthday, July 2-5, 2015** in Atlanta, GA. Go to the GSO website aa.org for all of the information.

A Trusted Servant Explains Upcoming Events (continued from page 1)

Remember ... most of these suggestions/recommendations come direct from A.A. members.

The A.A. Group is "where it all begins!" (*The A.A. Group Pamphlet*)

So let's start gearing up for the first quarterly Assembly in March called the **Pre-Conference Assembly** (Saturday, March 28th from 8am-4pm) that is going to be hosted by District 9 (Derry) and held at the First Congregational Church on 47E Derry Road. This is where our area delegate, Ken, lets us know what is going to be on the agenda at the 2015 General Service Conference in April. Ken's work is a tall order—he gives us a snapshot of ALL of the items to be talked about or voted on; we break up into smaller groups to discuss them; and in the afternoon we report back to him on what our general group conscience is on the subjects addressed.

It's one of my favorite conferences of the year. We get to find out about all of the material our delegates will be reading through including their own intense committee work, and all of the agenda items that will come up for review to be voted on, tabled, or recommendations made, etc.

It reminds me that I have a stake in how A.A. works. And it also makes me look forward to the **Post-Conference Assembly** (Saturday, May 16, 2015~ location to be determined. Does **your** district want to host this event?) When Ken reports back on the very items that we all discussed at the Pre-Conference Assembly, it reinforces how much our voice matters in the work of A.A. worldwide.

"Our voice matters in the work of A.A. worldwide."

Help Wanted at the NHAA Service Office

The Service Office is looking for part-time help. This person must have great people skills, have an understanding of how the AA program works, and possess decent computer skills. Call or email the Service Office for more information. To apply, pick up an application at the Service Office or send in your resume by email. We look forward to hearing from you.

NHAA SERVICE OFFICE
1330 Hooksett Rd

Hooksett, NH 03106
Phone: [603-622-6967](tel:603-622-6967)

Email: SOC@nhaa.net and/or office@nhaa.net

HEY! Yes, you, reading The Pipeline!

To make sure everyone knows what's going on in your district, please go to the link below to submit your district or group's event:

<http://www.nhaa.net/districts/submit-a-district-or-group-event/>

Your group or district's event will then appear on the NHAA website at

<http://www.nhaa.net>, and everyone will be able to see it. Thank you.



“Happy, Joyous, Free” – 49th Annual Area 43 State Convention

The NH Area 43 Function Committee is pleased to announce that the 49th Annual Area State Convention will be held on the weekend of April 10 - 12, 2015 at the North Conway Grand Hotel. The theme for this year's convention is “Happy, Joyous, Free” reflecting the theme of the International Convention marking AA's 80th birthday! The committee has been creating workshops and activities that reflect this theme as well as topics that are sure to be of interest to AA members far and wide! We are pleased to announce a series of workshops focusing on how we apply the Traditions in our personal lives. Participants will be able to attend one or the entire series of workshops that teach us how the Traditions work in relationships, groups and on our own spiritual journey.

For the entertainment portion of the convention, we are putting together a Friday night event that will be sure to excite and energize us all. Do you have a talent? Then you'll get a chance to let your light shine at Area 43's Talent Show. The traditional dance on Saturday night will be spun by District 14's Tom P. who has been an integral part of keeping the “fun in functions” for years on the seacoast.

Your options for registration this year are: 1. Register directly through the Area 43 website www.nhaa.net. 2. Download and print a registration form from the website, fill it out and mail it to the service office along with your check. Past attendees should have received their form in the mail in January. 3. Register in person at the convention for \$30 with cash, check or debit/credit card.

A few dates that you will want to keep in mind are March 2nd which is the cutoff date for mail-in registrations and March 9th which is the last date that you can reserve a room at the Grand Hotel at our special rate. Online registration will remain open until March 29th. The program will be posted on the NHAAs website by early March and the March edition of the Pipeline will introduce you to our keynote speakers, Tom R, and Donna B, our Friday and Saturday night AA speakers respectively, from Maine, Bill and Patty S, our AA/Al-Anon couple from Chester, NH, and Linda E, our AA Sunday morning spiritual speaker, from Grantham, NH. Do you want to get involved in helping to make this event even a bigger success? Consider volunteering to chair a marathon meeting. Please contact Mary B. at functions@nhaa.net if you are interested in being of service. We hope to see all of you at this wonderful celebration of recovery and fellowship as we say Happy 80th Birthday Alcoholics Anonymous!

Bill W., 75, Dies; Cofounder Of Alcoholics Anonymous

Jan. 27, 1971 - New York Times News Service (44 Years Ago Last Week)

NEW YORK — William Griffith Wilson died late Sunday night and, with the announcement of his death, was revealed to have been the Bill W. who cofounded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. He was 75.

The retired Wall Street securities analyst had expected to die or to go insane as a hopeless drunk 36 years ago but — after what he called a dramatic spiritual experience — sobered up and stayed sober.

He leaves a program of recovery as a legacy to 47,000 acknowledged alcoholics in 15,000 A.A. groups throughout the United States and in 18 other countries.

Wife Aided Work

Mr. Wilson, whose twangy voice and economy of words reflected his New England origin, died of pneumonia and cardiac complication a few hours after he had been flown by private plane to the Miami Heart Institute in Miami Beach from his home in Bedford Hills, NY.

At his bedside was his wife, Lois, who had remained by him during his years as a "falling down" drunk and who later had worked at his side to aid other alcoholics. She is a founder of the Al-Anon and Alateen groups, which deal with the fears and insecurity suffered by spouses and children of problem drinkers.



Mr. Wilson last spoke publicly last July 5 in a three minute talk he delivered after struggling from a wheelchair to the lectern at the closing session of A.A.'s 35th anniversary international convention in Miami, attended by 11,000 persons. He had been admitted three days earlier to the Miami Heart Institute, his emphysema complicated by pneumonia.

Last Oct. 10, he was under hospital care for acute emphysema and was unable for the first time to attend the A.A. banquet at which his "last-drink anniversary" has been celebrated annually. His greetings were delivered by his wife to the 2,200 A.A. members and guests at the New York Hilton.

Mr. Wilson gave permission to break his A.A. anonymity upon his death in a signed statement in 1966. The role of Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith as the other founder of the worldwide fellowship was disclosed publicly when the Akron Ohio, surgeon died of cancer in 1950.

As Bill W., Mr. Wilson shared what he termed his "experience, strength and hope" in hundreds of talks and writings, but in turn — mindful that he himself was "just another guy named Bill who can't handle booze" — he heeded the counsel of fellow alcoholics, and declined a salary for his work in behalf of the fellowship.

He supported himself, and later his wife, on royalties from four A.A. books — "Alcoholics Anonymous," "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age" and "The A.A. Way of Life."

Explained Anonymity

In fathering the doctrine that members should not reveal their A.A. affiliation at the public level, Bill W. had explained that "anonymity isn't just something to save us from alcoholic shame and stigma; its deeper purpose is to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and fame at A.A.'s expense."

He cited the example of a nationally known radio personality who wrote an autobiography. disclosing his A.A. member-

Bill Wilson's Obituary Continued ...

ship and then spent the royalties crawling the pubs on West 52nd Street."

Frankness Impressed

In the program's early years, Mrs. Wilson worked in a department store to augment the family income.

Over the years, the gaunt, 6-foot cofounder's wavy brown hair turned wispy white, and his step slowed. In 1962 he retired from active administration of A.A. affairs and returned to part-time activity in Wall Street. He continued to speak in New York at dinner meeting celebrating the anniversaries of his recovery.

Mr. Wilson shunned oratory and euphemisms and impressed listeners with the simplicity and frankness of his A.A. "story":

In his native East Dorset, VT., where he was born Nov. 26, 1895, and where he attended a two-room elementary school, he recalled, "I was tall and gawky and I felt pretty bad about it because the smarter kids could push me around. I remember being very depressed for a year or more, then I developed a fierce resolve to win – to be a No. 1 man."

Strength Limited

Bill, whose physical strength and coordination were limited, was goaded by a deep sense of inferiority, yet became captain of his high school baseball team. He learned to play the violin well enough to lead the school orchestra.

He majored in engineering at Norwich University for three years, then enrolled in officers training school when the United States entered World War I. He married Lois Burnham, a Brooklyn physician's daughter he had met on vacation in Manchester, Vt.

At Army camp in New Bedford, Mass., 2nd Lt. Wilson of the 66th Coast Artillery and fellow officers were entertained by patriotic hostesses, and Bill W. was handed his first drink, a Bronx cocktail. Gone, soon, was his sense of inferiority.

Wife Concerned

"In those Roaring Twenties," he remembered, "I was drinking to dream great dreams of greater power." His wife became increasingly concerned, but he assured her that "men of genius conceive their best projects when drunk."

In the crash of 1929, Mr. Wilson's funds melted away, but his self-confidence failed to drop. "When men were leaping to their deaths from the towers of high finance," he noted, "I was disgusted and refused to jump. I went back to the bar. I said, and I believed, 'that I can build this up once more.' But I didn't. My alcoholic obsession had already condemned me. I became a hanger-on in Wall Street."

Numbing doses of bathtub gin, bootleg whisky and New Jersey applejack became Bill W.'s panacea for all his problems.

Visited by Companion

Late in 1934, he was visited by an old barroom companion, Ebby T., who disclosed that he had attained freedom from a drinking compulsion with help from the First Century Christian Fellowship (now Moral Rearmament); a movement founded in England by the late Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman and often called the Oxford Group. Bill W. was deeply impressed and was desperate, but he said he had not yet reached that level of degradation below which he was unwilling to descend. He felt he had one more prolonged drunk left in him.

Sick, depressed and clutching a bottle of beer, Bill W. staggered a month later into Towns Hospital, an upper Manhattan

Bill Wilson's Obituary, Conclusion

institution for treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction. Dr William Duncan Silkworth, his friend, put him to bed.

Mr. Wilson recalled then what Ebby T. had told him: "You admit you are licked; you get honest with yourself... you pray to whatever God you think there is, even as an experiment." Bill W. found himself crying out:

"If there is a God, let him show himself, I am ready to do anything, anything!"

"Suddenly," he related. "the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up into an ecstasy which there are no words to describe. It seemed that a wind not of air but of spirit was blowing. And then it burst upon me that I was a free man."

Recovering slowly and fired with enthusiasm, Mr. Wilson envisioned a chain reaction among drunks, one carrying the message of recovery to the next. Emphasizing at first his spiritual regeneration, and working closely with Oxford Groupers, he struggled for months to "sober up the world," but got almost nowhere.

"Look Bill," Dr. Silkworth cautioned, "you are preaching at those alkie. You are talking about the Oxford precepts of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. Give them the medical business, and give it to 'em hard, about the obsession that condemns them to drink. That – coming from one alcoholic to another – may crack those tough egos deep down."

Mr. Wilson thereafter concentrated on the basic philosophy that alcoholism is a physical allergy coupled with a mental obsession – an incurable though arrestable – illness of body, mind and spirit. Much later, the disease concept of alcoholism was accepted by a committee of the American Medical Association and by the World Health Organization.

Still dry six months after emerging from the hospital, Mr. Wilson went to Akron to participate in a stock proxy fight. He lost, and was about to lose another bout as he paced outside a bar in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel. Panicky, he groped for inner strength and remembered that he had thus far stayed sober trying to help other alcoholics.

Through Oxford Group channels that night, he gained an introduction to Dr. Smith, a surgeon and fellow Vermonter who had vainly sought medical cures and religious help for his compulsive drinking.

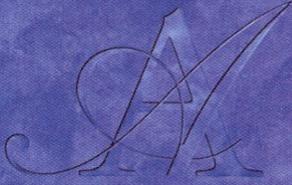
Bill W. discussed with the doctor his former drinking pattern and his eventual release from compulsion.

"Bill was the first living human with whom I had ever talked who intelligently discussed my problem from actual experience," Dr. Bob, as he became known, said later. "He talked my language."



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, the Basic Text for Alcoholics Anonymous



Email the Pipeline at

pipeline@nhaa.net

Statement of Purpose

The New Hampshire Area Pipeline will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to New Hampshire AA Area 43 as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Pipeline will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Like the AA movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs.

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Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am—4pm

Sat: 10am—2pm

Group Changes, Updates and Disbandings

Change: Rochester's Footprints Group, which meets Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 63 S. Main Street, meets upstairs.

Change: Exeter's Women's Sunday Serenity Group meets from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at the Exeter Hospital Conference Room 4, 45 Alumni Drive. It has been moved from Conference Room 1.

New Group: Keene's Back to Basics group meets Sundays from 11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. at the Keene Senior Center, 70 Court Street.

New Group: Dover's Fellowship of the Spirit Group meets on Saturdays from 6-7 p.m. at Bonfire Recovery Services, 10 Grove Street.

New Group: Milford's Solution Saturday Big Book Step Study Group meets from 9 to 10:15 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 20 Elm Street.

Disbanded: Penacook's Men's and Women's Step Group, which met on Tuesdays from 7-8:15 p.m. at the Church of Penacook.

