

NHAA PIPELINE

A Publication of the NH Area 43 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

March 2015

Area 43 State Conventions – Speaker Spotlight

On the weekend of April 10th through the 12th, several hundred AA and Al-Anon members from New Hampshire, Maine and beyond will gather in North Conway for our Area's 49th State Convention. This month, we are pleased to present to Pipeline readers some background on our key-note speakers in eager anticipation of their sharing experience, strength and hope with us.

Our Friday night speaker, Tom R., hails from Scarborough, Maine and was a workshop presenter at the Maine Round-Up last summer where this writer had the privilege of being a participant. His workshop on Honesty clearly outlined the differences in his life both before and after finding sobriety. He brought the principle of honesty through several steps, emphasizing the need he had to become ruthlessly honest about the nature of his drinking, those he hurt, and his current circumstances and attitudes. By applying honesty to his life while working the steps, Tom has been able to enjoy contented sobriety for many 24 hours. Tom is a solid member of AA who attends meetings in the Portland, Maine area. He brings sincerity and a true love of the fellowship into his sharing. Come and hear Tom's story Friday night beginning at 8 p.m.

Saturday morning, we have the pleasure of hearing Joe and Pat A. from Atkinson, NH as our AA/Al-Anon couple. Long-time members of Southern NH groups since 1989, Joe and Pat found recovery through the 12 steps in St. Louis, Missouri back in 1986. Married now for over 50 years, they are retired and living this program a day at a time happy, joyous and free. When asked about favorite phrases or slogans Joe responded "live and let live" and Patti "trust I must". They will share their stories on Saturday morning beginning at 10:30.

Donna B from Cape Elizabeth, Maine is our Saturday evening speaker. She comes highly recommended by AA members from Maine and attributes the beginning of her solid recovery to a spiritual experience she had while on retreat in

Other Upcoming Events for Area 43 in 2015 ...

- **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.As!
- **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.

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1999. “Armed with the facts” as it states in the Big Book, she had to face the reality of her disease and start taking action. Over the past 16 years, Donna has traveled that journey with a sponsor who took her through the steps as laid out in the Big Book and has been blessed to share how this has worked for her through her sharing at gatherings such as ours. Donna will share her experience, strength and hope with us on Saturday evening at 8:15.

Sunday morning is our traditional Spiritual speaker meeting and this year we are privileged to welcome Linda E from Grantham NH. Linda could be nicknamed “The Mother of Recovery” in her family as she was the first of 7 members of her family to find her way into AA. Linda does not take credit for this though, remembering that “this is a family disease” and the solution is a Power greater than any one person. When listening to Linda share, this writer is always struck by her reliance on a higher power through all of life’s circumstances. Her confidence that God as she understands God will make all things right is apparent in her calm demeanor and reassuring words. Her favorite phrase that she turns to when she needs centering is “Be still and know that I am not God – I am not in charge”. We invite you to come and hear Linda’s story Sunday morning at 10:30.

Registration for this year’s convention is underway so register now and plan to attend – you won’t regret it! Visit the NHAA website, www.nhaa.net for details, the program and contact information. And remember that the deadline for mail-in registration is March 2nd while the deadline for Hotel registration at our special group rate is March 9th. Don’t delay and register today!

- submitted by NH Area 43 Functions Committee

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

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.

Candlelight
meeting

9-10

District 8 Presents

Doors open at
6:00 PM

COFFEE HOUSE

Live Music by
Anonymous
Members

Sat 28th March

47 Chenell Drive, Concord

\$5 at Door
Dessert &
Hor'doeuvres
Potluck

An Amends Story: Step Nine in Good Time

Step Nine: “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible . . .” This amend to someone I will call B had been in the back of my mind for years. It dated not from my drinking years, but from early sobriety.

B had become an administrator in the department where I worked. He was not my supervisor; in fact, I had held the job before him, and outranked him in terms of seniority. The people who reported to him were mostly women with little seniority or job security. Many felt he treated them like servants.

(He and I were both in the program, he with at least 10 years at that point and me with about a year and a half).

By 1995, when I had celebrated my second sober New Year’s (and done a very shallow 4th step, the best I could do at that stage), many people were hoping that B would resign. Some of the women who worked for B suggested I should do something. I jumped eagerly into the fray with an e mail, suggesting to B that the time had come for him to step down. There was enough pressure on him that he did so.

This was an amend that I put on the back burner for years. B and I remained on speaking terms, not buddies but comfortable enough around each other until we both retired. He moved to Colorado, and my wife and I moved to New Hampshire. I would see news of B on Facebook, and occasionally say something complimentary about what he was doing or enquiring about his and his wife’s health.

However, the need for the amend rattled around somewhere for years. I did not feel I had done a huge harm, and I thought he would have had to quit whether I had e mailed him or not. But I’ve been told that if I am at all bothered by NOT doing the amend, then I probably need to take care of it.

What was wrong about my action is explained in Chapter 6 of the Big Book, where we get to discussion of Steps 10 and 11. On p. 86 I am told to “ask God to direct [my] thinking, especially asking that it be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives. . . . Our thought-life will be on a much higher plane when our thinking is cleared of wrong motives.”

I knew for a long time that wrong motives had driven me to ask B’s resignation. I had a chance to throw my weight around and be a hero (in my imagination, at least) to others. I was less interested in my junior colleagues’ welfare than I was in being a big shot. I knew that much. Much later, I learned about my resentments at people like B in my (finally) deep Fourth Step which I did for an AWOL several years ago. I’m an attention junkie, and seeing people who otherwise irritate me get more attention than I do really gets under my skin. But at 18 or so months sober, I had not figured that out.

I did nothing until 2015 rolled around and I realized it had been 20 years since my e mail to B. I had better get at it, so I started to write to him. But somehow, admitting that I had been driven by ego and power-tripping – some pretty obvious stuff – did not seem to be enough. If I truly wanted to heal our relationship, just saying “my big ego made me do it,” while true, would not be quite right. Then, as I wrote, I remembered more.

As I said above, I had preceded B in that job for a year. But I resigned when I felt it was driving me nuts. I am claustrophobic, and could not stand the hours that I was required to sit in the office. I was already drinking alco-

An Amends Story: Step Nine in Good Time, continued

holically, but that year drove me to drink even more. I would keep bottles in my briefcase and stash them elsewhere in the building. I would keep a six-pack in my car and sneak out to the parking lot to suck down a beer whenever the demons in my head got too loud. I dreaded going in every morning, and by midyear told the department that I was stepping down at year's end.

B stepped in and became my replacement. I hated the job but he loved it. He got sober while in that job and even took my son to a meeting when the boy was home on leave from in-patient treatment.

It was the memory of my own tenure in that job that I had conveniently buried. And as B flourished in that position – and, it seemed to me, abused its power from time to time – it stung me deep down that he was getting the power and attention that I could have had but had to set aside.

So when I wrote to him last month, I first mentioned the 1995 e mail and told him I hoped he did not remember it. (I almost wrote, “And if you don’t remember it, quit reading now and delete this message!” But I didn’t.) I then said that my telling him to resign “was really about me and not about you.” By joining in the battle to get him out of office, I was vindicating my own sense of power and burying the fact that, whatever his problems in the job had been, I had not been able to function in it at all. So I told him about my own troubles before he took over, especially about stashing bottles everywhere so I could drink in or near the office, drinking on the job.

I concluded by congratulating him on his new life. I really didn’t expect to hear anything back. However, a short time later I got a very gracious reply. He thanked me very much for my amend and said he was happy to get it.

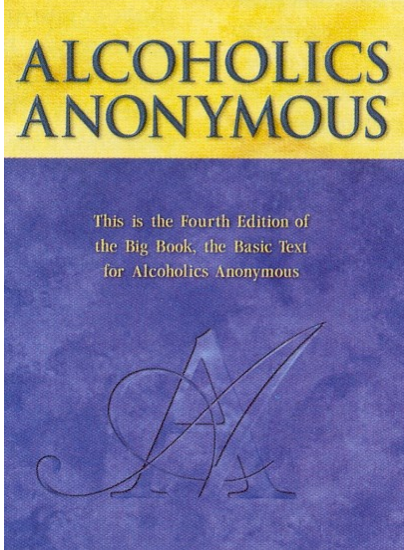
He told me that he did remember, and that while my message had upset him at first, he realized that he had an identity apart from the job, and he was much happier in the position he took afterwards. “So you really helped me,” he said.

I was very moved by his kind response. That was not what I would expect to hear from the guy I thought I knew. Then I remembered that even back 20 years ago, he could often be very kind and considerate.

And best of all, his response came on one of our recent snow days when I was getting down about not being able to go anywhere. I was able to tell him in all truth, “your gracious message turned my whole day around!” And it’s nice to know I have another friend.

TF - Concord





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.

NH Area Hotline:

1-800-593-3300

NH Area Assembly Service Office

1330 Hooksett Road

Hooksett, NH 03106

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Website: www.nhaa.net

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am—4pm

Sat: 10am—2pm

Group Changes, Updates and Disbandings

The Concord Big Book Step Study Meeting now meets at 48 Airport Road on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. It has relocated from the East Congregational Church.

New Boston's Tuesday Night Group meets at the Community Church on Rte. 13 from 8-9 p.m. and now has handicapped access.

Keene's Serenity Group Meeting is on Sundays from 10-11 a.m. at the Keene Serenity Center, 36 Carpenter Street.

Manchester's Joy of Living Group is on Mondays from 8-9 p.m. at St. Catherine's Church (Hemlock and Webs). It moved from St. Catherine's School back to the church.

New Group! Plymouth's Sunday Happy Hour Group meets from 5-6 p.m. at the Common Man, 231 Main Street.

New Group! Nashua's Women Step It UP! Group meets Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45 p.m. at Southern NH Medical Center, 29 NW Blvd.

Disbanded Groups: Wolfeboro has had three meetings disband—the Sunday I Need A Meeting Group that took place from 2-3 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 258 Main Street; the Monday through Friday Wolfeboro Morning Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m., same location; and the Thursday Beginners Group at Grace Point Church, 615 Center Street, that met from 6-7 p.m.

