

PLEASE share with your group!

District 21 Newsletter

March - Issue # 3 in 2005

District 21 meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. 7:00 pm fellowship with the business meeting starting at 7:30pm.
Meeting place is United Methodist church at 4325 Zachary LN NW in Plymouth.
Located on the NW corner of County Road 9 (Rockford Road) and Zachary Lane.

Check out our web-site at: www.area36-district21.org

The District 21 newsletter is a confidential document. It may contain full names, phone numbers, and addresses just as AA directories do. This usage does not in any way violate our tradition of anonymity to the public communications media. Names, phone numbers, and addresses are confidential and MAY NOT be used for any other purpose.

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it -- then you are ready to take certain steps.

At some of these we balked. We thought we could find an easier, softer way. But we could not. With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.

Remember that we deal with alcohol -- cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power -- that One is God. May you find Him now!

Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked His protection and care with complete abandon.

Here are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol -- that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
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.

Many of us exclaimed, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three pertinent ideas:

- (a) That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives.
- (b) That probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism.
- (c) That God could and would if He were sought. ©

Step Three

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Tradition Three

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Concept Three

"To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.--the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives--with a traditional "Right of Decision"."

An Open Letter to All AAs

Service work.....

I can picture many faces after hearing those words, with the eyes dropped to the side, trying to avoid volunteering or being nominated for service work. Many of us say, "My life is too busy for service work right now!" While we should not over commit, I believe a lot of us **do** have the time to give a little extra. If someone would have told me three years ago that I would some day be sober, at peace, and doing a bunch of service work for AA, I would have thought he or she was delusional. My life was "too heavy" and "too busy" to contribute to the greater good of mankind. Surviving was a big enough job!

As I gradually started to accept my powerlessness and work through the program, I realized that God gives me the strength to do what I can and the wisdom to know what I cannot do. I have always liked the thought of contributing, I just felt that it would take too much time or be too much work. Now that I am involved, I realize that not only am I helping "carry the message", I am also incredibly blessed by the service work I do.

Our fifth tradition states, "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." I know that I would not be sober today had it not been for AA's who were fulfilling that primary purpose. So, my questions to all of us is:

- Are we participating in the Primary Purpose?
- Are we putting as much energy into the program as we had put into our drinking careers?
- Are we passing on the amazing gift of sobriety by carrying the message to those who still suffer?

We look forward to seeing some new faces at the next district meeting on March 24, 2005 at 7:30pm. We have several committees that still need to be filled. We would like to see GSR representatives from as many home groups as possible. Come check it out.

Hey – you might even realize you enjoy service work!

Gratefully yours,
Lisa S

P.S. Strike a chord? Ring a bell? Come to our next meeting (see above) or drop a note to:
District 21 General Service, Box 47322, Plymouth MN 55477;
or e-mail to tfc@area36-district21.org

And we'll be in touch, thank you.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

All are welcome to attend

- March 19 Area Assembly, Victorian Inn, Hutchinson MN, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- March 22 District 21 meeting in Plymouth; 7 PM, meeting 7:30 - 9:30 PM
- April 2 Delegate's Workshop, Hennepin Technical Center, Eden Prairie
Gratitude Night, Minneapolis Convention Center, 6:00 PM
- April 26 District 21 meeting in Plymouth; 7 PM, meeting 7:30 - 9:30 PM
- May 14 Intergroup Spring Workshop, St. Louis Park, 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- May 27,28,29 Gopher State Roundup, Sheraton Bloomington, I-494 & HWY 100

The following are the volunteers that are currently serving the groups of District 21.

District Officers

DCM.	Susan H	dcm@area36-district21.org
Alt. DCM	Jeff H	alt-dcm@area36-district21.org
Treasurer	Richard T	treasurer@area36-district21.org
Secretary	OPEN	sec@area36-district21.org

District Committee Chairpersons

Website	Yvonne L	webchair@area36-district21.org
Newsletter	Gary Q	newsletter@area36-district21.org
	Joe R	.
Group records	Kathi W	records@area36-district21.org
Literature	Open	literature@area36-district21.org
Treatment Facilities	Lisa S	tfc@area36-district21.org
Finance	(Treasurer)	
Structure	(Alt DCM)	
Coop. with Prof. Community	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Public Information	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Correction Facilities	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Archives	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Grapevine	Open	(we need a volunteer)

Financial report.

February Summary

Account balance:

Beginning balance	\$1,573.15
Total income	333.01
Total expenses	<u>682.53</u>
Ending Balance (3/13/05)	\$1,210.30
District 21 prudent reserve	<u>800.00</u>
Overall total	\$2,010.30

AA Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.
There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

District 21 General Service
P. O. Box 47322
Plymouth, MN. 55447

Change Service Requested.

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