DISTRICT 16 & 20 NEWSLETTER

Volume 2007 - Issue 1 | January – February 2007

24-Hour A.A. Hotline Numbers:

* AA Greater Detroit - 877-337-0611 * Ferndale Office, 380 Hilton Road Ferndale, Michigan 48220 - 248-541-6565
* Oakland County Central Office, 168 University Dr., Pontiac, MI 48342 - 248-332-3521

Do you have a problem with alcohol? Do you want help to stop drinking?

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

If you do, you are welcome to attend any Open or Closed A.A. meeting. Call above Hotline numbers for a list of meetings near you.

Responsibility Declaration: "…when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

Male Volunteers needed to bring AA meetings into Calumet Juvenile Corrections Center

Can you spare a Monday night to bring the AA program into this youth correctional facility? District 20 is asking for helpers on a regular basis and you must be able to pass a routine background check since this is a corrections facility. For these kids it may be their first contact with A.A. program and you may really make a difference in some young persons life. If you are interested: Contact Shaun S. at 248-259-1077. Or Area 33 Corrections Chair Fred C at 734-417-0620

A letter from an AA Member now in Illinois.

The Secret to Staying Sober.

"I hung around the AA program for eight years before I finally surrendered to a Higher Power and AA. Each time I walked through the doors (usually drunk), I was greeted with open arms, and throughout each meeting I understood that "these people" had found something I wanted: The Secret to staying sober.

After each meeting, I used to corner whomever had the most sobriety and ask them what The Secret was, and each time I was told that to find out I had to keep coming to meetings.

This was not an acceptable answer! I didn't have time to go to meetings when I had

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DISTRICTS 16 & 20

PART OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN A.A. AREA 33

District 16 includes Groups from: Southfield, Oak Park, Ferndale, Berkley, Royal Oak, Clawson, Birmingham, parts of Hazel Park and parts of Madison Heights.

District 16 meets at 7:00 PM on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Clawson United Methodist Church, 205 Main Street. One block north of 14 Mile Road. All are welcome to attend.

District 20 includes Groups from: Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Lakeville, parts of Pontiac and parts of Bloomfield Hills.

District 20 meets at 6:45 PM on the 4th Thursday of every month at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1892 East Auburn Road. South side, 1 block west of Dequindre. All are welcome to attend.

*Editors Note: **Deadline for the Mar / Apr Newsletter is February 15th**. Drop off flyers and submittals to: JIM C. at the **Serenity At Peace Group** or at **Southfield Group A.A.** meetings. Or send email to: jimc176@comcast.net or call 248-433-0363 **OR** District 20: Contact Shaun S @ Joys of Recovery Group 248-2591077*

The Third Legacy – Service

In 2006, the 56th Annual meeting of the General Service Conference was held in New York. The General Service Conference provides direction to the trustees of AA, oversees the service arms of A.A. and guides A.A. into it's future. This is accomplished through service commitments from Delegates who have been elected by AA Group GSR's across the world.

But it wasn't always so. For the first 20 years of A.A. there was no structure in place to pass on the reigns of guidance and leadership. Bill W. realized that A.A. could actually disappear overnight if the founding members left no legacy to carry on. New members would need to take over where the oldtimers left off and continue to carry the message and service of the A.A. traditions. They realized that they must pass the torch to new generations of Alcoholics.

Here are Bill W.'s words from a talk in front of A.A.'s in Fort Worth Texas in 1954.

"…So there was a long discussion, in which I had a sad falling out with a good many of my friends, some of whom had been trustees, and it was quite a bitter and harrowing chapter in our affairs, which none of you know about.

This struggle, to see whether this movement would always be headed by a self-perpetuating hierarchy of oldtimers, or whether these affairs, so vital to the welfare of A.A. all over the world, should be turned over to you. [AA Groups around the world].

And finally, after six years of hassling about it, I finally got the consent of the Board of Trustees to come out to you , and tell you this story and to say:

"Here is a means, which in an experimental form, we have put in a pamphlet marked 'The Third Legacy.'

"Here is a means by which you can get some delegates and state committeemen, and send folks up to New York, to take charge and to take over what is now your business.

"And so why don't you come up there and look this deal over, and the trustees will agree to make themselves responsible to you instead of to nobody.

"And you look it over and see what you think about it, and if at the end of four years you like the way that it's temporarily laid out, then we'll drive a plug in this thing, then we oldtimers up there, including yours truly, will say, "Look folks, these vital services are yours to have and to hold."

"This Conference of delegates shall hereafter be the custodians and the guardians of our Traditions. This is yours. This is the remainder of your Third Legacy. Will you accept it?"

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.

And I think that it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over.

So, in 1955 we purpose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy.

This Conference shall become our successor.

To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you."

The General Service Conference continues to this day to shape the future of A.A.. Bill W. has passed the torch on down to all of us. Will you help to keep it burning and carry it on to the next level? Volunteer to help out at all levels of A.A. organization. Group, Area, National. All need your help.

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so many important things to do: I had a wife, a house, a family, a job, etc.

So I did it my way. After only seven treatment centers, a mental institution, a divorce, and my local hospitals telling me that I was no longer welcome, did it begin to dawn on me that my way might be flawed.

And I still didn't know The Secret. I finally convinced (begged) one of the treatment centers I had been in to give me one more chance, promising that I would do anything to get sober. They accepted me only on the condition that I commit myself to a long-term treatment facility one hundred miles away, and as soon as an opening became available, off I went.

A year later (six months more than required), I moved to a small town in southern Illinois and started college because I knew I couldn't stay sober in the retail business I had been in.

Today, I'm married to a wonderful woman who is also in the program and am continuing my education beginning with my understanding of how it works. The Secret is, there is no Secret! Working the Steps with a sponsor, going to meetings, helping others, and above all, keeping God and sobriety first have kept me sober almost five years now. I always had heard that things in plain sight are the hardest to find! " Scott J. Vandalia, Illinois

DISTRICT 16 ELECTS NEW OFFICERS: DCM IS NOW MITCH L. AND ALT DCM IS NOW DON J. . COME TO THE NEXT 16TH DISTRICT MEETING ON DECEMBER 27TH TO WELCOME THEM.

Spotlight On Recovery

Need a meeting but you don't have a babysitter? Check this out!

Every *Tuesday Night* - *Nothin' But the Book Group* offers

***FREE* BABYSITTING**

That's right from 5:45 PM - 7:15 PM every Tuesday, ***Nothing But The Book Group*** is reaching out to those who need this help in order to make a meeting. The meeting is held at the Church on Main in Royal Oak (309 N. Main St. - on Main just north of 11 Mile). Children from 6 months to 11 years old are accepted. Babysitting is paid for by the group.

Worth re-quoting!: *"Resentment is like taking poison and hoping the other person will die." Dr. Carolyn Myss*

AA Help Wanted……

Through Service work we help not only others, but we help ourselves. At the Group, District and Area levels we can really make a difference…*if we pitch in and help out. Volunteer Today!! You'll feel MUCH better about yourself!*

16th District needs: Corrections Liaison, Public Information

20th District needs: Your Help…to come up with event ideas for 2007. Come to the District 20 meetings on December 28th or January 25th at 6:45 PM, Gethsemane Church, 1892 East Auburn Road, 1 block west of Dequindre.

FELLOWSHIP IN A.A. - Upcoming Events

Monday, December 25th, 6:00 PM. Chance for Recovery Group of AA, closed table discussions. Monday evenings 6:00 PM located at Heritage Church of Christ, 529 Grove Ave, Clawson, MI

Wednesday, December 27, 2006, 7:00 PM - District 16 Meeting - United Methodist Church, 205 Main St., Clawson, MI - at 7:00 PM. To find out about open service positions contact district16dcm@aa-semi.org.

Thursday, December 28th, 6:45 PM - District 20 Meeting - at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1892 East Auburn Road. South side, 1 block west of Dequindre. All are welcome to attend.

Friday December 29th, District 16's 5th Annual New Years Eve Eve (Eve) Dinner Dance. San Marino Club, 1685 E Big Beaver, Troy. Advance tickets only $35. Dinner Dancing, Refreshments, Salsa dance instruction. For tickets Contact Ellen F. 248-586-1424, Chris S. 248-585-7048

Sunday December 31, 7:30 PM, New Years Eve. "Ring in the New Year", Open Talk 8:00 PM followed by a **Sock Hop Dance 50's, 60's** hosted by Greater Reality Group of AA. At Saint Mary Catholic Church Fellowship Center, Corner of Lincoln and Lafayette, Royal Oak. Open to AA Members, Family, (Children must be supervised) Donations accepted.

"Don't crush that Dwarf, Hand me the pliers" ← *What Group and When?*

"Let Go Let God!" "Easy Does it!" "Think Think Think!" "This too shall Pass!"

Sunday December 31, 7:30 PM, New Years Eve Dinner, Speaker and Dance. *Rochester Friday Night Group*, Rochester University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S Adams Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309. Doors open 7:00 PM, Dinner 7:30 PM, Dress to Impress! **$20 per person**, **Advance Tickets only**. Contacts: Shelly & Jim 248-652-0711, Bridget 248-990-2117, Chris 248-760-8941, Elyse 248-953-0168

Saturday, January 6, 2007 E.A.C.Y.P.A.A. 5 Dance Party & Part II of EACYPAA IDOL. $5 per person. Dancing and food. Open Speaker 8PM, Dance 9-1am at the North West Alano Club, 2903 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI For more information contact Brandon B 313-410-0162 or Lauren L 248-787-2763

Tuesday. Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, "Back to Basics" A.A. Beginner's Meeting - 6:30 PM - hosted by the ***Southfield Group*** - 4 Weekly sessions. Located at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 West 12 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan (north of 12 Mile between Southfield and Greenfield, enter back of building).

Wednesday, January 10 2007. 7:30-9:00 PM Big Book Study. This 14 week Big Book Study will be held every Wednesday evening until April 11th. Hosted by ***Serenity at Peace Group***. Located at Peace Lutheran Church17029 West 13 Mile Road, Southfield, MI (Between Southfield and Greenfield Roads on 13 Mile)

Wednesday, Jan 24, 2007, 7:00 PM - District 16 Meeting - United Methodist Church, 205 Main St., Clawson, MI - at 7:00 PM. To find out about open service positions contact district16dcm@aa-semi.org. All welcome to attend.

Thursday, Jan 25, 2007, 6:45 PM - District 20 Meeting - at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1892 East Auburn Road. South side, 1 block west of Dequindre. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday. Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, "Back to Basics" A.A. Beginner's Meeting - 6:30 PM - hosted by the ***Southfield Group*** - 4 Weekly sessions. Located at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 West 12 Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan (north of 12 Mile between Southfield and Greenfield, enter back of building).

Thursday, Feb 22, 2007, 6:45 PM - District 20 Meeting - at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1892 East Auburn Road. South side, 1 block west of Dequindre. All are welcome to attend.

Fri., Sat. & Sun., February 15 - 18, 2007 - 43rd International A.A. Women's Conference, Marriott Hotel, Renaissance Center, downtown Detroit, Michigan. For more information and pre-registration online at: www.iaawc.org

Tuesday, Feb 27th. 46 Years Anniversary Party, Madison Heights Group. Come enjoy food fellowship and fun. Located at United Methodist Church, 246+ East 11 Mile Road, 1 block east of John R. Bring a dish to pass. Doors Open 6:30 Food 7:00 PM and Guest Speaker Hank S. at 8:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb 28, 2007, 7:00 PM - District 16 Meeting - United Methodist Church, 205 Main St., Clawson, MI - at 7:00 PM. To find out about open service positions contact district16dcm@aa-semi.org. All welcome to attend.

Area 33 of Alcoholics Anonymous
Serves Southeastern Michigan.
Website: www.aa-semi.org

Oakland County Central Office has Literature and Sobriety tokens. Located just east of Wide Track drive on Westbound M-59 – call 248-332-3521 for directions.