

16th Edition March 2024

## AAversaries!

**2 Years** Emily Friday Night North Liberty Meeting

**8 Years** Chris R. Tuesday Night North Liberty Meeting

**10 Years** Sue M. Tuesday Night North Liberty

**17 Years** Brian F. Tuesday Night North Liberty

**21 Years** Bryan D. Friday Night Men's Meeting  
Iowa City

**27 Years** Teresa R. Iowa City

**54 Years** Doug B. Tiffin Monday Night Meeting  
**CONGRATULATIONS To All Those With March Sobriety Anniversary Dates!**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** If you want your sobriety birthday featured in our future newsletter, there are simple rules: Years only, 1<sup>st</sup> name, last initial, home group. To [iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you want to receive this newsletter, send an email to [iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com).

## WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT.

Jim is told by his sponsor that he needs to participate more in service work. So he applies for the position of treasurer. They hold a group conscience and ask him "What is nine multiplied by four?" He thinks quickly and says "Thirty-three." After the interview, he realizes his mistake. He's surprised when they informed him he got the job, despite there being four other candidates. "But I got the wrong answer," he protests. "Yeah, we know. But you were closest."

Why did the radio start drinking again? It ran out of AA batteries.

## AREA 24 AA

## DISTRICT 13

**[iadistrict13.org](http://iadistrict13.org)**

### 2023-2024 District Officers and Chairs

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**Tradition Three** *"Our membership ought to include all who suffer alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."* Long Form. An Editorial by Bill W.

This is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous *so long as he says so*. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the brother alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.

So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no *musts*." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.

Our membership tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight A.A. activities. One can think of no A.A. member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" A.A. groups, "wet" A.A. groups, Republican A.A. groups, Communist A.A. groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the A.A. name, even indirectly to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that A.A. should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of A.A. therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive, and never exclusive, offering all we have to all men save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life --and a useful one!

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## **I am responsible...**

**When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.**

## Dr. Bob's Farewell Talk

... I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same thing. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service." We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.

Thank you very much.

*\* From Dr. Bob's brief remarks on Sunday, July 30, 1950, at the First International A.A. Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Iowa City Intergroup** meets online on the first Saturday of the month at 10 am. Zoom ID 810 0506 4290 Passcode WILSON.

**District 13 Meeting** will be held **Sunday, March 24th**, 2:30 PM at 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month alternating between Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City and 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. **All are welcome.**

**Midwest Group** 310 N Johnson St., Iowa City will be celebrating their groups anniversary on April 21<sup>st</sup>. 7 PM Wayde L. of Muscatine will be speaking. A flyer will be available shortly on the district website [iadistrict13aa.org](http://iadistrict13aa.org). Check it out!

Our Delegate, Julie S., will be at the **General Service Conference** in New York, from April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be at the NY Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St. Brooklyn, NY 11201. Feel free to send her words of encouragement by mail at address above, or email at [area24.delegate@aa-iowa.org](mailto:area24.delegate@aa-iowa.org).

**Area 24 2024 Spring Conference** June 14 registration begins at 3:00 pm - June 16 @ 12:00 pm. At Dordt University 498 4th Ave NE Sioux Center. See Area 24 Spring Conference (aa-iowa.org) for a copy of the flyer. <https://www.aa-iowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Area-24-Spring-2024-Conference-Flyer.pdf> .

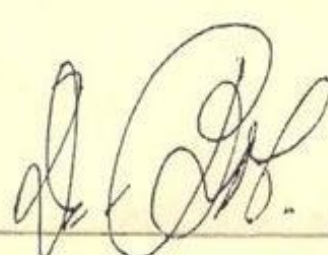
**FYI: Area 24** (the State of Iowa) has a newsletter that comes out 5 times a year. If you would like to receive access to it, contact [Area24.Newsletter@aa-iowa.org](mailto:Area24.Newsletter@aa-iowa.org). It is available to all AA members, and you are an AA member if you say you are.

R. H. SMITH, M. D.  
2ND NATIONAL BLDG. AKRON, OHIO  
TELEPHONE: HE-8523 REG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FOR alcoholics  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE Feb 1937

*Always remember it*

1. Trust God
2. Clean house
3. Help others

NR 1 2 3 INF.  M. D.



“Life’s tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.” *Benjamin Franklin*

Dear Family

The following was sent from Misha (*GSO PI desk*). Please share with those in your Districts and Groups as the feedback will be useful in guiding the Public Information work.

Your Help is Needed: Anonymity and Social Media

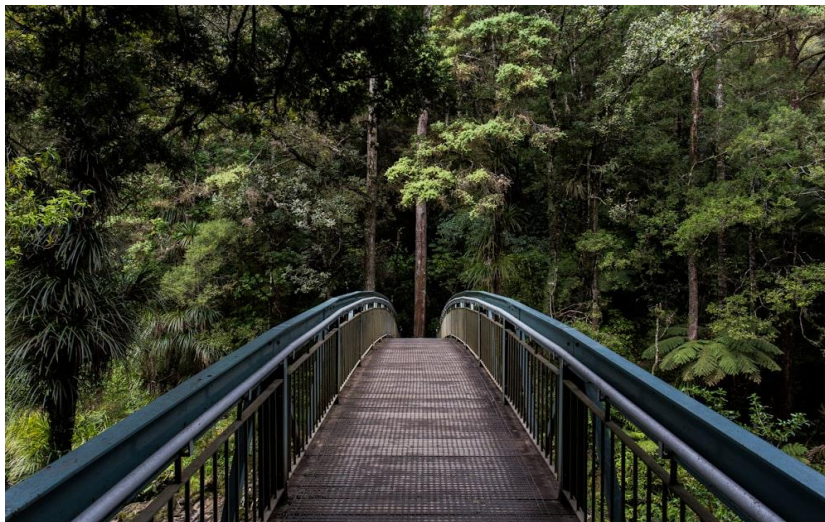
One committee consideration from the 2023 Conference Committee on PI encouraged us to collect more information from the Fellowship related to Anonymity and Social Media.

Please consider taking this questionnaire and please share the link with members in your area so we can collect more shared experience from the Fellowship.

Note: the questionnaire will close on April 10, 2024

EN: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EN-anonymity>  
(Highlight link. Ctrl + Click to follow link)

Yours in love and service,  
Julie S.  
(Area 24 Delegate)



“The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn.” *Bertrand Russell*