

22nd Edition September 2024

### **AAversaries!**

**6 years** Tony O. North Liberty Tuesday Night Group

**6 years** Deb E. Women's Big Book Study Iowa City

**8 years** Jim S. LGBTQ Group Iowa City

**10 years** Tracy F. Primary Purpose Muscatine

**42 years** Ricarda P. Happy Hour Group Coralville

**CONGRATULATIONS To All Those With September 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.**

Hay. Did you hear? My scarecrow won an award! For being "Outstanding in his field".

Some people won't admit to their faults. I would.....if I had any.

Why did the shoe go to rehab? It was *laced* with something.

Why did coffee file a police report? It got mugged.

## **AREA 24 AA**

### **DISTRICT 13**

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

#### 2023-2024 District Officers and Chairs

Jim S. DCM

[iadistrict13dcm@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13dcm@gmail.com)

Wayde L. Alt DCM

[iadistrict13altdcm@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13altdcm@gmail.com)

Merrilee R. Secretary

[iadistrict13secretary@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13secretary@gmail.com)

Cindy G. Treasurer

[iadistrict13treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13treasurer@gmail.com)

Rick W. Activities Chair

[iadistrict13activities@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13activities@gmail.com)

Wayde L. Archives Chair

[iadistrict13archives@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13archives@gmail.com)

Scott M. Corrections Chair

[iadistrict13corrections@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13corrections@gmail.com)

Scott M. Cooperation w/Professional Comm

[iadistrict13cpc@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13cpc@gmail.com)

Vacant Grapevine Chair

[iadistrict13grapevine@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13grapevine@gmail.com)

Sally D. Literature Chair

[iadistrict13literature@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13literature@gmail.com)

Cindy G. Newsletter Chair

[iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13newsletter@gmail.com)

Teresa R. Public Information Chair

[iadistrict13pi@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13pi@gmail.com)

Monica F. Treatment Chair

[iadistrict13treatment@gmail.com](mailto:iadistrict13treatment@gmail.com)

**Service Opportunities! District 13 Elections Upcoming in October. Contact anyone above for information on Standard Operating Procedures for these service commitments.**

**Tradition Eight** - Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12th Step" work is never to be paid for.  
*Long Form. An Article by Bill W.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words, "Freely ye have received, freely give." We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world's best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: our single purpose has always been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid Twelfth Stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an AA talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him too. The money motive compromises him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few AAs have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee. Despite this certainty, it is nevertheless true that few subjects have been the cause of more contention within our fellowship than professionalism. Caretakers who swept floors, cooks who fried hamburgers, secretaries in offices, authors writing books; all these we have seen hotly assailed because they were, as their critics angrily remarked, "making money out of AA." Ignoring the fact that these labors were not Twelfth Step jobs at all, the critics attacked as AA professionals these workers of ours who were often doing thankless tasks that no one else could or would do. Even greater furors were provoked when AA members began to run rest homes and farms for alcoholics, when some hired out to corporations as personnel men in charge of the alcoholic problem in industry, when some became nurses on alcoholic wards, when others entered the field of alcohol education. In all these instances, and more, it was claimed that AA knowledge and experience were being sold for money, hence these people too were professionals.

At last, however, a plain line of cleavage could be seen between professionalism and non-professionalism. When we had agreed that the Twelfth Step couldn't be sold for money, we had been wise. But when we had declared that our fellowship couldn't hire service workers nor could any AA member carry out our knowledge into other fields, we were taking the counsel of fear, fear which today has been largely dispelled in the light of experience.

Take the case of the club janitor and cook. If a club is going to function, it has to be habitable and hospitable. We tried volunteers, who were quickly disenchanted with sweeping floors and brewing coffee seven days a week. They just didn't show up. Even more important, an empty club couldn't answer its telephone, but it was an open invitation to a drunk on a binge who possessed a spare key. So somebody had to look after the place full time. If we hired an alcoholic he'd only receive what we'd have to pay a non-alcoholic for the same job. The job was not to *do* Twelfth Step work, it was to make Twelfth Step work possible. It was a service proposition, pure and simple.

Neither could AA itself function without full-time workers. At the Foundation and Intergroup offices we couldn't employ non-alcoholics as secretaries; we had to have people who knew the AA pitch. But the minute we hired them, the ultra-conservative and fearful ones shrieked "Professionalism!" At one period, the status of these faithful servants was almost unbearable. They weren't asked to speak at AA meetings because they were "making money out of AA." At times they were actually shunned by fellow members. Even the charitably disposed described them as "a necessary evil." Committees took full advantage of this attitude to depress their salaries. They could regain some measure of virtue, it was thought, if they worked for AA real cheap. These notions persisted for years. Then we saw that if a hardworking secretary answered the phone dozens of times a day, listened to twenty wailing wives, arranged hospitalization and got sponsorship for ten newcomers, and was gently diplomatic with the irate drunk who complained about the

job she was doing and how she was overpaid, then such a person could surely not be called a professional AA. She was not professionalizing the Twelfth Step; she was just making it possible. She was helping to give the man coming in the door the break he ought to have. Volunteer committeemen and assistants could be of great help, but they could not be expected to carry this load day in and day out.

At the Foundation, the same story repeats itself. Eight tons of books and literature per month do not package and channel themselves all over the world. Sacks of letters on every conceivable AA problem ranging from a lonely-heart Eskimo to the National Broadcasting Company to the growing pains of thousands of groups must be answered by people who *know*. Right contacts with the world outside have to be maintained. AA's lifelines have to be tended. So we hire AA executive secretaries. We pay them well, and they earn what they get. They are professional secretaries, but they certainly are not professional AAs. Perhaps the fear will always lurk in every AA heart that one day our name will be exploited by somebody for real cash. Even the suggestion of such a thing never fails to whip up a hurricane, and we have discovered that hurricanes have a way of mauling with equal severity both the just and the unjust. They are always unreasonable.

No individuals have been more buffeted by such emotional gusts than those AAs bold enough to accept employment with outside agencies dealing with the alcohol problem. A university wanted an AA member to educate the public on alcoholism. A corporation wanted a personnel man familiar with the subject. A state drunk farm wanted a manager who could really handle inebriates. A city wanted an experienced social worker who understood what alcohol could do to a family. A state alcohol commission wanted a paid researcher. These are only a few of the jobs which AA members as individuals have been asked to fill. Now and then AA members have bought farms or rest homes where badly beat-up toppers could find needed care. The question was--and sometimes still is--are such activities to be branded as professionalism under AA tradition?

We think the answer is "No. Members who select such full-time careers do not professionalize AA's Twelfth Step." The road to this conclusion was long and rocky. At first, we couldn't see the real issue involved. In former days, the moment an AA hired out to such enterprises he was immediately tempted to use the name Alcoholics Anonymous for publicity or money-raising purposes. Drunk farms, educational ventures, state legislatures and commissions advertised the fact that AA members served them. Unthinkingly, AAs so employed recklessly broke anonymity to thump the tub for their pet enterprise. For this reason, some very good causes and all connected with them suffered unjust criticism from AA groups. More often than not these onslaughts were spearheaded by the cry "Professionalism! That guy is making money out of AA!" Yet not a single one of them had been hired to do AA's Twelfth Step work. The violation in these instances was not professionalism at all, it was breaking anonymity. AA's sole purpose was being compromised and the name of Alcoholics Anonymous was being misused.

It is significant, now that almost no AA in our fellowship breaks anonymity at the public level, that nearly all these fears have subsided. We see that we have no right or need to discourage AAs who wish to work as individuals in these wider fields. It would be actually anti-social were we to forbid them. We cannot declare AA such a closed corporation that we keep our knowledge and experience Top Secret. If an AA member acting as a citizen can become a better researcher, educator, personnel officer, then why not? Everybody gains, and we have lost nothing. True, some of the projects to which AAs have attached themselves have been ill-conceived, but that makes not the slightest difference with the principle involved.

This is the exciting welter of events which has finally cast up AA's tradition of non-professionalism. Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire.

**One of the first published reviews of the Big Book, in April 1939, was by a well-known minister, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick of Riverside Church in New York City, here is that review.**

**Reviewed by – DR. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK**

This extraordinary book deserves the careful attention of anyone interested in the problem of alcoholism. Whether as victims, friends of victims, physicians, clergymen, psychiatrists or social workers there are many such, and this book will give them, as no other treatise known to this reviewer will, an inside view of the problem which the alcoholic faces. Gothic cathedral windows are not the only things which can be truly seen only from within. Alcoholism is another. All outside views are clouded and unsure. Only one who has been an alcoholic and who has escaped the thralldom can interpret the experience.

This book represents the pooled experience of one hundred men and women who have been victims of alcoholism — many of them declared hopeless by the experts — and who have won their freedom and recovered their sanity and self-control. Their stories are detailed and circumstantial, packed with human interest. In America today the disease of alcoholism is increasing. Liquor has been an easy escape from depression. As an English officer in India, reprovved for his excessive drinking, lifting his glass and said, “this is the swiftest road out of India,” so many Americans have been using hard liquor as a means of flight from their troubles until to their dismay they discover that, free to begin, they are not free to stop. One hundred men and women in this volume, report their experience of enslavement and then of liberation.

The book is not in the least sensational. It is notable for its sanity, restraint, and freedom from over-emphasis and fanaticism. It is a sober, careful, tolerant, sympathetic treatment of the alcoholic’s problem and of the successful techniques by which its co-authors have won their freedom. The group sponsoring the book began with two or three ex-alcoholics, who discovered one another through a kindred experience. From this personal kinship a movement started, ex-alcoholic working for alcoholic without fanfare or advertisement, and the movement has spread from one city to another. This book presents the practical experience of this group and describes the methods they employ.

The core of their whole procedure is religious. They are convinced that for the hopeless alcoholic there is only one way out — the expulsion of his obsession by a Power Greater Than Himself. Let it be said at once that there is nothing partisan or sectarian about this religious experience. Agnostics and atheists, along with Catholics, Jews and Protestants, tell their story of discovering the Power Greater Than Themselves. “WHO ARE YOU TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO GOD,” one atheist in this group heard a voice say when, hospitalized for alcoholism, he faced the utter hopelessness of his condition. Nowhere is the tolerance and open-mindedness of the book more evident than in its treatment of this central matter on which the cure of all these men and women has depended.

They are not partisans of and particular form of organized religion, although they strongly recommend that some religious fellowship be found by their participants. By religion they mean an experience which they personally know and which has saved them from their slavery, when psychiatry and medicine had failed. They agree that each man must have his own way of conceiving God, but of God Himself they are utterly sure, and their stories of victory in consequence are a notable addition to William James’ “Varieties of Religious Experience.”

Although the book has the accent of reality and is written with unusual intelligence and skill, humour and modesty mitigating what could easily have been a strident and harrowing tale. — *Harry Emerson Fosdick*

## New Pink Can Contributions Address!!

AREA 24  
PO Box 1291  
Des Moines, Iowa 50305

***Please make checks out to "Iowa Area Assembly" and note "Pink Can" on the memo line.***

### 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, September 22nd**, 2:30 at 704 S. Houser in Muscatine. **See you there.** We normally meet on the 4th Sunday of the month alternating between Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City and 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. **All are welcome.**

**27<sup>th</sup> National AA Archives Workshop September 26-29, 2024. Scottish Rite Consistory**, at 519 Park St., Des Moines, IA. *See flyer included in this newsletter.*

Al-Anon and Midwest Group Volleyball and Potluck **September 22nd**. See attached flyer in this newsletter.

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 704 S. Houser, Muscatine. District 13 and Gaunt Prospectors Potluck to be followed by District Service Positions Elections! See attached flyers. This is an opportunity for you to be of service to those you share meetings with.

**Area 24 2024 Fall Conference October 11-14, 2024, at Abu-Bekr Shriners 820 Nebraska St., Sioux City, IA.** See the flyer included in this newsletter. This is a Voting Conference!

**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.

Remember-Wherever you go.... there you are.

27<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL AA ARCHIVES WORKSHOP  
**24 Hours a Day: Then & Now**

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2024



DES MOINES

SCOTTISH RITE CONSISTORY – DES MOINES, IA  
519 Park Street, Des Moines, IA

*A Most Interesting and Informative Event*  
*Wonderful Workshops! Fabulous Presentations! Amazing Speakers!*  
*Local Tour of Historic AA Club*

Online Registration: <https://naaaw-2024.cheddarup.com>

Area 24: <https://www.aa-iowa.org/event/national-alcoholics-anonymous-archives-workshop-naaaw/>

Contacts: Beth C, Chair: (225) 333-0235; Nate W, Co-Chair: (515) 520-7123; Email: [NAAAW0924@gmail.com](mailto:NAAAW0924@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**





*Al-Anon &  
Midwest Group of  
Alcoholics Anonymous*



*Presents:*

**VOLLEYBALL & POTLUCK IN THE PARK  
SEPTEMBER 22ND**

**IOWA CITY, IA LOWER CITY PARK SHELTER #9**

**VOLLEY BALL @ 1:30 PM**

**POTLUCK @ 3:30 PM**

**ALL WELCOME TO JOIN!**

**WATER PROVIDED**

**BRING A CHAIR**

**BRING A DISH/DRINK**

**AA/AL-ANON SPEAKER MEETING @ 7:00 PM**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**310 N JOHNSON ST IOWA CITY, IA**

**DESSERT PROVIDED**

**Let's give back to what has given us  
so much!!  
Get Excited about Service!!**



**District 13 Biannual Elections  
When: October 27th 2024  
Where: 704 S Houser Street Muscatine, IA  
When: 2:30 following the Fall Potluck**

### Alt DCM chair

This position has shown me the importance of readiness to serve and allowed me to see the relationship to the other positions within the District level. I have had opportunities to engage in service work and fellowship by the side of caring individuals who come together in the name of A.A.! What an honor to feel the vigor and humbleness of our world service and its structure.

**In service: Wayde L.**

(Current District 13 Officer sharing his experience in service.)

**District 13 Fall Potluck  
In Conjunction with the Gaunt Prospectors**



**Where: 704 S Houser Street Muscatine Iowa  
When: October 27th 2024  
Doors open at Noon**  
Following the Potluck District 13 will be having their Monthly business meeting and holding elections for the various Chair positions.

### Archives chair

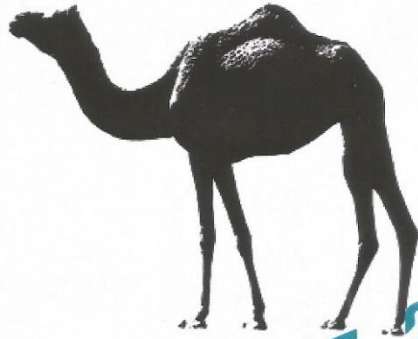
This position has given me many rewards and insight into the early formation of A.A. within our local area and its co-founders. Even though A.A. has encountered many issues that caused setbacks, these have bolstered our perseverance in keeping the fellowship alive. What a privilege to experience A.A.'s past and present through living our history with diligence and humbleness. A position that fulfills spiritually and physically!

**In service: Wayde L.**

(Current District 13 Chair sharing his experience in service.)



RECOVERY GROUP



OCTOBER 5, 2024

FELLOWSHIP | CHRIS R. - INGRAM, TEXAS | FEAST

34TH ANNIVERSARY

513 SYCAMORE ST. | MUSCATINE, IOWA | 6:00 PM

AAMUSCATINE.COM



Hosted by District 1

2024 Area 24

# FALL CONFERENCE

## “More will be revealed”



October 11-13, 2024

Abu Bekr Shriners  
820 Nebraska St  
Sioux City, IA 51101

\$18 Pre-Registration (due by Sept 20) \$21 At Door  
MEALS: Luncheon: Pre-Reg \$12/At Door \$15, Banquet: Pre-Reg \$20/At Door \$25,  
Vegetarian: \$12  
\*300 meals available for each, Banquet and Luncheon \* Limited # of meals available at door

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday, October 11

6:45-7:45pm Officer and Chairing Sharing Session  
8:00-9:30pm Sharing Sessions DCM, GSR and Area Officers  
9:45-11:15pm Workshops- Archives, Corrections, Newsletter, and PI

#### Saturday, October 12

7:15-8:15am Early Bird AA meeting  
8:30-11:15am Area Business Meeting

11:30-1:30pm Luncheon— Al-Anon Speaker: Jean L. (Dubuque, IA) and Alateen speaker  
1:45-5:30pm Area Business Meeting  
6:30pm Banquet, AA Speaker: John E. (Omaha NE) and entertainment  
9:30-11:00pm Workshops— CPC, Grapevine, Literature, and Treatment

11:15-12:15am Candlelight Meeting

#### Sunday, October 13

6:45-7:45am Early Bird Meeting  
8:00-9:00am For conference committee to decide  
9:15-10:15am Past Delegate—“Ask It Basket”  
9:15-10:15am Area Officers and Chairs transition meeting  
10:30-11:30am AA Spiritual Speaker

ONLINE REGISTRATION: <https://more-will-be-revealed.cheddarup.com>

### Area 24 Fall Conference 2024 Pre-Registration Due by Sept 20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: AA\_\_\_ Al-Anon\_\_\_ Alateen\_\_\_

Adults	\$18 Pre-Reg	At Door \$21	
Alateen	\$5		
Pre-Reg Meal	Sat. Lunch \$12	Dinner Banquet \$20	Veg. Meal \$12
At Door Meal	Sat. Lunch \$15	Dinner Banquet \$25	Veg. Meal \$12
TOTAL			

CHECK BOX (Due by Sept 1)

- Spanish interpreter
- ASL interpreter

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Area 24 Fall Conference 2024 and mail to: PO Box 351 Sioux City, IA 51102

\* Alateen must present Iowa Consent & Release Form at the Registration Table for Admission to the Conference

## Pre-Registration due by September 20, 2024

### LODGING—

Call and ask for the "Area 24 Fall Conference" rates. Must reserve hotel room by Sept 11, 2024 to get rate. *Taxes are 13.65% in IA.*

#### Avid

101 Court St  
Sioux City, IA 51101  
(712) 522-3640  
Total Rms. avail.-31  
Kings—\$100 + tax  
Double Queen-\$110 + tax

#### Court Yard Marriott

901 4th St  
Sioux City, IA 51101  
(712) 202-2700  
Total Rms. Avail.—25  
King \$129 +tax  
Double Queen \$139 +tax

#### Stoney Creek

300 3rd St  
Sioux City, IA 51101  
(712)234-1100  
Total Rms. avail.—25  
King \$155 +tax  
Double Queen \$155

#### Holiday Express

4723 So. Hills Dr.  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
(712) 274-0100  
15 Double Queens  
5 Kings  
\$124.99 + tax

#### So. Sioux City Marriott

Riverfront  
385 E 4th St  
So. Sioux City, NE 68776  
(402) 494-4000  
15 Double Queen  
10 Kings  
\$149 + 22% tax

#### Comfort Inn

4202 S. Lakeport  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
(712)274-1300  
25 Double Queens  
\$94 + tax

#### Hampton Inn

5555 Sergeant Rd  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
30 Rooms available  
(712) 587-6984  
King \$124 + tax  
Double Queen \$124 + tax  
*\*Discount cutoff date 10/1/24*

#### The Warrior Hotel

525 6th St.  
Sioux City, IA 51101  
(712) 317-1011  
10 Rooms available  
Kings \$164 +tax  
Double Queen \$174 + tax  
*\*Discount cutoff date 9/13/24*

#### PARKING

- ⇒ Parking Lot on Site South of building "Reserved for those with Impaired mobility" enter on 8th St between Neb St & Jackson St.
- ⇒ Parking Lot ACROSS, west of Building
- ⇒ Street parking along Nebraska St.

#### REGISTER ONLINE USING QR CODE



#### CONTACTS

Area24fallconference2024@gmail.com

Rose A.—(712) 522-9184

Rick W.—(712) 490-2465

*Spanish speaking interpreters and ASL interpreters are available UPON request on registration form, due by Sept 1.*



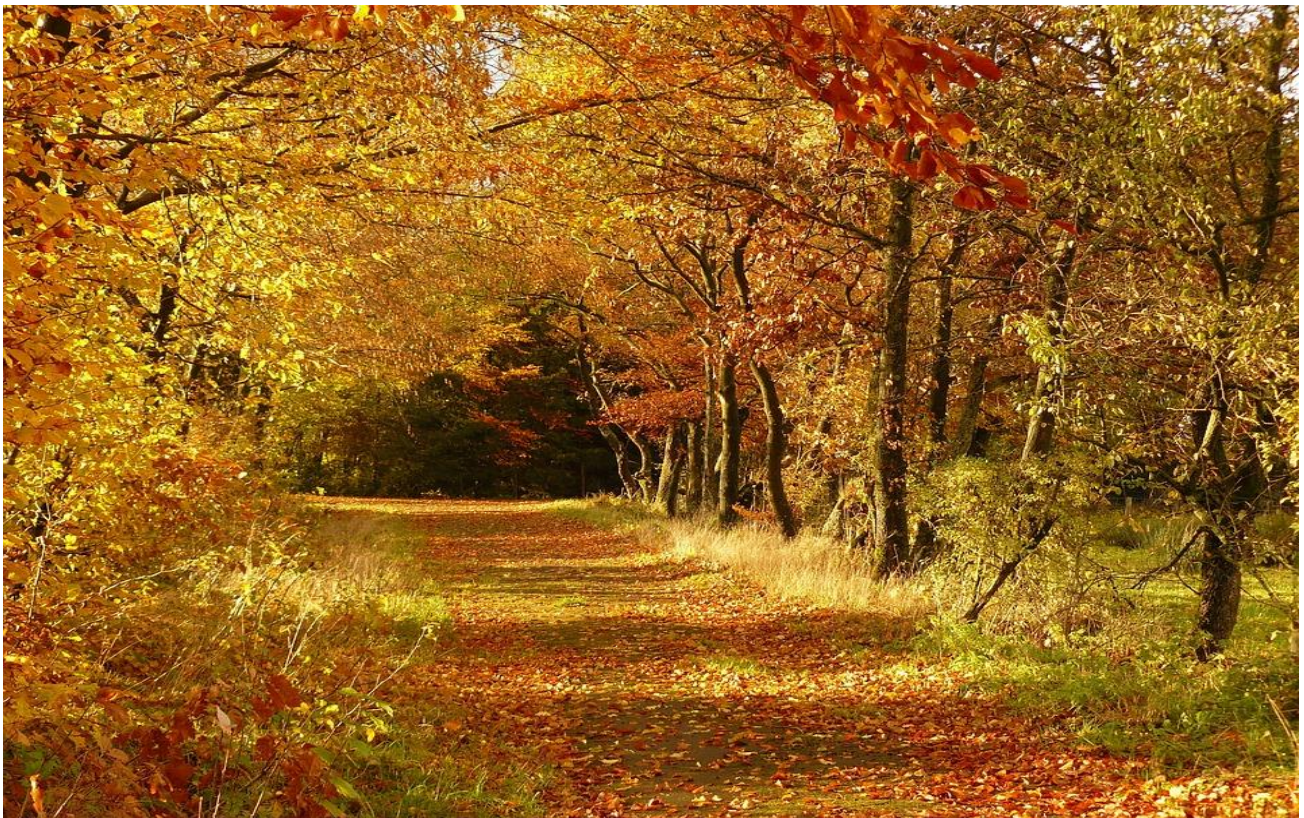
## What Does My Fellowship Mean To Me?

They are my “peeps”, their heart is for keeps.  
They’ve got my back, from my own self-attack.  
They help me to think and push back the first drink.  
Their words just don’t lie, and sometimes I cry.

Their time is so giving, just so I can keep living.  
Their hugs are so sincere, they feel my fear.  
My calls can get weary, so rambling and teary.  
Their hearts never tired, it’s just how they are wired.

Without this great group, my smile it would droop.  
The light in my eyes low, my skin without glow.  
So believe when I say, I am grateful every day.  
For the ones on my trip, the ones with my chip,  
My AA Fellowship!

Merrilee R. August 2024



“Just because your path is different doesn’t mean you are lost.” *Unknown*