

Saint Joseph County Multi-District (SJCMD) Newsletter

Area 22 Northern Indiana

Districts 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39

July 2011

Published by the St. Joseph County Multi-District; PO Box 721, South Bend, Indiana 46624

EARLY AAs FORUM

Editors Note: This essay appeared in the June 1951 *Grapevine*. This essay was written prior to the establishment of the General Service Conference.

“To Serve Is to Live”

Our first General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous gathered at New York City in April, 1951. It was composed of thirty-seven U.S. and Canadian delegates plus AA's general service Headquarters staff and trustees. The single purpose of our Conference was to serve AA throughout the world.

This unexciting statement now carries a deep meaning for all who were there. We came to believe that AA's future had been made secure. We became certain that AA could live for so long as God might need us.

Why did each witness of the Conference feel so deeply about it? I think for two reasons: The group conscience of all Alcoholics Anonymous was heard to speak for the first time. And we realized, as never before, how perilous “faith without works” might really become. So it was, that AA's group conscience heard its first high call to service.

Making this plainer, let's look for a moment at a single AA member. Faith alone does not save him. He has to act, do something. He must *carry* his message to others, *practice* AA principles in all his affairs. Else he slips, he withers, and he dies. Look now at an AA group. Can pure faith, more belief in right principle and sound tradition, make the group a going concern? Not in the least. Each AA group, as such, must also function, do something. It must serve its appointed purpose or it, too, withers and falls apart.

Now our Conference delegates were able to apply this principle to AA as a whole. The delegates could see far beyond the single AA and his

particular group. In a flash, they took in the stark fact that AA *as a whole* must continue to function or else it might well suffer that common penalty of faith without works. Which is: disintegration. Gone was the comfortable illusion that should each AA group tend strictly to its own affairs God would then reward our shortsightedness by guarding AA as whole entirely by himself – including our Headquarters, AA public relations, and the welfare of the millions who still don't know. The delegates saw that this would spell faith without work and without responsibility, that could never be. Of course much work would always have to be done, much responsibility would have to be taken by many. To AA as a whole, every member would need to give a little.

(continued on back)

FINANCIAL INVENTORY

Beginning Checkbook Bal. (June 1, 2011) \$ 359.64

INCOME

Group Name	District/Group #	Amt.
Sun. Daily Reflection	29/677585	\$10.00
Tue. NoonTimers	37/667293	\$15.00
SJCMD Meeting Basket (June 11, 2011)		\$55.00
Adjustment for Dbl expense of GSO/Area 22 con		\$80.00

EXPENSE

Rent Area Hall (May Meeting) \$20.00

Ending Checkbook Balance (June 31, 2011) \$ 499.64

**“AN A.A. DOLLAR NOT SPENT IS AN
ALCOHOLIC NOT SERVED”**

Next SJCMD Meeting is Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011
@ 1 pm. at Area Hall, 525 LW/W, South Bend

THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE REPORT

Presented by:

Ron F.
Delegate Area 22

SJCMD DCMs –

Dist 25) John G.; 27/29) Kevin S., Alt. Bill D.;
31/33) Tom G., Alt. Pete Mc; 35) OPEN; 37) Celeste M. Alt. Scott K. 39) Doug R.

SJCMD Newsletter July 2011

Of age now, our Fellowship would have to begin looking after its own vital services; these couldn't be thoughtlessly left in the sole custody of our isolated unknown, and unsupported board of trustees.

The work of our Foundation and AA's "GHQ" would have to become widely understood and directly backed up by AA itself. Nothing was plainer, thought the delegates. When, therefore, you next see your local Conference member, you may find him talking something like this:

"Thanks for sending me to New York. I've just spent three days at AA's Headquarters. Our trustees, General Office, and Grapevine people turned the place inside out so we delegates might vision its past, present, and future. What we saw and felt was startling.

"Very suddenly we got the feeling of AA as a whole. We looked out upon a Fellowship of surpassing unity, one on which the sun never sets, a world communion four thousand times larger than a single AA group.

"We then realized that this wonder had been made possible by the devoted services of a few; those Headquarters workers whose decade and more of labor had enabled us in distant fields to garner that great harvest of 120,000 fellow sufferers (as of August 2010 world-wide membership is 1,852,068 with 106,493 groups) into the safety of our fold, and into the affectionate respect of the whole world. Our unseen servants at the Foundation had done all this because Dr. Bob and Bill had asked them to.

"But now they were saying to us delegates, 'Soon you must lend a hand. These are AA's arms of service, these are our Traditions. Come and help us administer them; times have changed, we oldsters are perishable. This is your Legacy of Service. Please accept it now and guard it well.'"

The Conference scene that Sunday afternoon we last met will always be a precious memory in the annals of AA. For in that historic assemblage we could all here the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. These were the words: "To serve AA is to live. We gladly accept our Third Legacy and may we guard it well and use it wisely. God grant that the Legacy of Service remain ever safe in our keeping."

In that fine hour the torch of Service did pass from the hands of us who are older to yours, which are younger; it passed to every oncoming generation of those children of the night whose darkness, God willing, shall be banished within the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous all through the bright years which destiny surely holds in store for us.

Reprinted from "The Language of the Heart" pgs. 129-130

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DISTRICT NEWS

District 25 Area Hall Home Group's Fourth of July Cookout was well attended..

District 27/29 Sunday morning groups at Holy Cross College are continuing to carry the message.

District 31/33 – Little Flower Church continues to be the home of many strong groups.

District 35 – Could any Home Group member from a downtown group come to a SJCMD meeting!?

District 37 – Groups in the Mishawaka/Osceola area are continuing to carry the message of the 12 Steps.

District 39 – The Fellowship House is home to many groups and GSRs are getting involved with service.

HOME GROUP APPRECIATION DINNER

Ben W. Gary, IN Past Deleg Panel 37	Butch R. Anderson, IN Past Deleg Panel 45	Dorothy W. Indianapolis Past Trustee at-Large	Bill W. Miami, FL Co-Founder July 1970
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Sausage and Corn Dinner

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Dinner at 5:30 pm. – Speakers at 7:30pm.

**Clay Methodist Firehouse
17646 Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana**

Contact your DCM for more information:

John G. 574.807.5167 Tommy G. 574.292.8374
Celeste M.. 574.876.3015 Doug R. 574.855.0736

Table of 8 Tickets: \$48