



Volume XLII, No. 1

# CONCEPTS

Northern Illinois Area, LTD. Area 20 Service Letter



Spring 2019

## Why Do We Need a Conference?

*The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.*

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

Reprinted from "The A.A. Service Manual", Page S20, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

***"I came to A.A. in order to stop drinking; what I received in return was my life."***

Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, page 338, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# I WAS THINKING:

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The fifth Tradition states: Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I'm wondering what exactly that means. Bill wrote, in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: "... better to do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle." It seems to me that this is important. I think that we focus on issues related to alcohol well. However, I'm not so sure about carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

When someone identifies themselves as a first time attendee, most meetings will offer to do a first step for that person. My experience is this involves several people sitting with that new comer and telling their stories followed by giving the new comer a list of phone numbers and asking that they use them. Oh, by the way, keep coming back. I have to say, that doesn't seem to be carrying the message as a primary purpose.

A few years ago, my homegroup started having one or two people take the new comer aside to have a conversation with them. We ask; why are you here? What makes you think that you have a problem with alcohol? We tell how we have come to the conclusion that we are alcoholic and what A.A. has done for us. It is much more of a conversation than sitting there telling our stories. At the end we ask for their phone number and we call them. I don't know if that is a better representation of carrying the message but we feel it is better.

I don't think I've seen very many groups that - as a group - do much outside of the meeting. I know some have regular workshops on a number of topics, some that would qualify as carrying the message and some that would be more how to carry the message. I know that some groups will chair open speaker meetings at various places.

All in all, most of the meetings are about those attending staying sober or passing the message around to each other.

At the District level, I have been a part of two districts: primarily District 40 in DuPage County and a little bit of District 22 in Elgin. During the meeting there is discussion about what the various Service Committees are doing. What meeting are being brought to treatment programs and/or jails. What Bridging the Gap is doing to reach out to potential members in treatment programs or jails. In some cases what PI or CPC is doing - which most of the time isn't very much. Then, there is the talk of picnics and holiday parties under the umbrella that we need to have fun as well as show others that they can have fun in recovery.

At the Area, it seems we spend a lot of time talking about planning events and putting on workshops. Our Service Committee Chairs report on their activities - recently not much happening there. DCM's talk about what their Districts are doing - what workshops they are sponsoring and so forth. We all talk about what we are doing with the money. Recently there have been discussions on how much money we: "We need to send it to the General Service Board as excess funds." Then, "We need to keep it in case we need it here." Or, "We need to start spending it here."

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

Bill added another thought, in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: "There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away."

What does "Every A.A. group" mean. Is this limited to a group of people meeting to talk about their recovery only? I don't think so. I think it includes our District and Area groups as well. It is all of our primary purpose. As individuals, at any time, any of us get together as a group. That's how we, as individuals, stay sober as well as maintain our unity as a fellowship.

I wonder if we have lost some of that purpose as we struggle with work, family, relationships, paying our bills and wondering how we are going to make it in this increasingly difficult world we live in. "For us, if we neglect those who are still sick there is unremitting danger to our own lives and sanity (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions)." That is the danger if we stray from our primary purpose. That and our society, this blessed fellowship that saved our lives, would divert its attention to other matters and become un-unified and thus un-effective.

As we struggle with excess funds, districts not step up to host events, and debating whose money is it; I wonder if we have lost some of that purpose at the Area? Oh for the days, when we were so desperate, that the only thing that mattered was being willing to go to any length. Oh for the days, when I would scramble to find anyone I could talk to in order to stop the voices in my head trying to convince me I had to drink or die. I would have bought books, made coffee, set up chairs and clean ashtrays if

that meant not having to drink - and I did all of those things.

Bernard Smith gave a talk on "Why we have a Conference" referring to the General Service Conference. It is also why we have a group, district and area. You can find a re-print in the A.A. Service Manual. In short, it is about our doors stay open at our meetings. So that alcoholics can find those open doors. So, that every alcoholic, everywhere, can find our solution. For me, it is not only our primary purpose but our only purpose - to carry this life saving and life enhancing message to everyone who suffers from alcoholism. I pray that my life will demonstrate this.

Anyway, I was just thinking.

Robert S

## AA's First International Convention: One Member's Perspective

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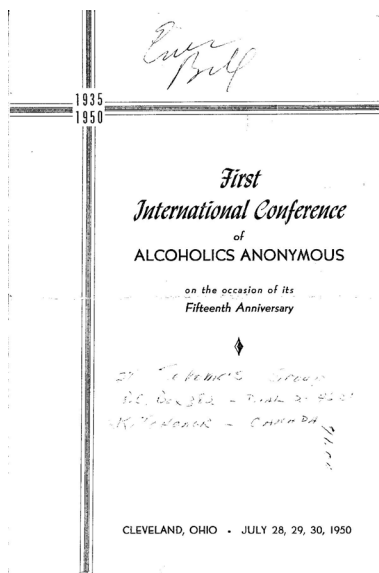
AA's 15th Anniversary and First International Convention convened in Cleveland with around 3,000 attending, at least a few of whom were from outside the United States. (The Fellowship in 1950 had about 100,000 members.) In attendance was Tex B. from Lombard, who would later become Editor of this newsletter. Tex had

Continued from page 3

come into AA in Skokie on February 6, 1947. A year later he moved to Lombard and found his home in a Glen Ellyn group, which he referred to as the "'Colonel's' group." ("A Personal History of AA." Tex B.)

In his autobiographical sketch, Tex refers to his recollection of this First International highlighting the very personal, one to one experience that other members of the Fellowship have come to understand:

One special memory that I have was seeing an Amish family (my first) all dressed up in their Sunday Meeting clothes in a buggy on the highway just outside of Cleveland. The next day on the floor of the big meeting at the Conference, there they were. The driver of the buggy (Miles ?), big hat and all, was running up and down the aisles. He seemed to know everybody. He was one [of] our early members. (Id.)



#### Tex's Program

The Conference consisted of a series of meetings from Friday through Sunday. The 1950 International set a pattern for future

conventions with its sessions on Hospitalization, Industry, Women members and Young People. The editors, writers and managers of AA publications had a symposium of their own. A banquet, followed by entertainment and dancing, took place on Saturday night. The grand event on the program was the Sunday afternoon meeting at the Cleveland Auditorium with two speakers – Dr. Bob and Bill.

In addition, however, on Saturday afternoon, the Program included the "AA Conference meeting" involving "Discussion and definition of AA Traditions and other matters of movement-wide policy." (See Language of the Heart 121, AA Comes of Age 43, Pass It on 338) At that session, after Bill summed up the Traditions for the attendees,

He asked for full discussion on the Traditions and none was forthcoming. Then, he suggested as there were no comments, we should adopt them officially for AA by a standing vote. Everyone in the crowded room rose to his feet. Bill W. said: "These traditions are now adopted as part of our AA doctrine." (Delegate's Report on First International, GSO Archives)

Also introduced at this session of the First International was Bill's proposal for the formation of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. (How It Worked: The Story of Clarence H. Snyder 201)

Sunday morning was : Continued on page 5  
meeting, a practice that has continued.

(Language of the Heart<sup>117</sup>)Tex B. later described this session as follows:

On Sunday morning, the 'Spiritual Meeting' was held. I went much excited by the prospect that I was going to rub elbows with the real heavy hitters in the 'God' department. I do not remember the name of the main speaker, but his topic dealt with the idea that the alcoholic was to be the instrument that God would use to regenerate and save the world. He expounded the idea that alcoholics were God's Chosen People and he was starting to talk about 'The Third Covenant,' (there are two previous covenants with the Jewish people described in the Old Testament), when he was interrupted by shouted objections from the back of the room. The objector, who turned out to be a small Catholic priest, would not be hushed up. There was chaos and embarrassment as the meeting was quickly adjourned. I was upset and in full sympathy with the poor speaker. I did not realize it at the time, but I had seen Father Pf. (of Indianapolis) in action and Father Pf. was right. ("A Personal History of AA." Tex B.)(Note: As Father John Doe, Father Ralph Pf. became known throughout the Fellowship for his Golden Books reflecting a series of spiritual retreats he conducted for AA members in Indiana over a number of years.)

As the Sunday afternoon finale approached, oldtimers from the Akron-Cleveland area wondered if Dr. Bob would even be able to attend. In the year since Anne's death, Dr.

Bob's health had been steadily deteriorating. Accompanied by Al S., an advertising writer from NYC who served as AA Grapevine editor, Dr. Bob did arrive just in time to join Bill and the others on the platform. Most of the people in the audience did not know how sick Dr. Bob was or how much determination it required even for him to appear.(See generally Bill Wilson & his Friends. Mel B. (unpublished second draft) at 23-17 to 23-19)

Dr. Bob's farewell talk lasted a brief ten minutes. Tex B. "was deeply affected by what was obviously Dr. Bob's last talk," specifically referencing the message that has become fixed in the hearts of many AAs:

[T]here 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 up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual AA 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 keep those two things in mind.("A Personal Autobiography of AA." Tex B.)

by Area Archivist

# I used to be DRY – Now I can be sober.

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As I approach an Anniversary, I am reflecting on the changes I have experienced along my journey of recovery.

I am only sharing my own experience.

There wasn't very good sponsorship when I first came into the rooms of AA. At least at the meetings that I attended. At the time I didn't know good sponsorship from bad. I didn't know good meeting from bad meetings. For the first three women that sponsored me things went south very quickly. One moved away, one went back out and one died.

By then I was almost two years sober. Maybe I'll say dry. That would be more accurate. I still had all of the isms.....

I knew something wasn't right but I didn't know exactly what it was and what to do about it.

I finally talked with a woman who helped me greatly. She agreed to be my sponsor. Over the years she has always had time for me. We talked about the steps. We read the 12 and 12 together and rode to meetings together. It was a very special friendship/sponsorship relationship. I could trust her to keep a confidence and to get sound earthly wisdom from her.

Back to my earlier days... I kept hearing about "go to meetings and don't pick up that first drink". That's a good idea but I have found that "working the steps that are

in our Big Book" is what has changed me from the old me to the recovering me.

When I look back at how much "self" (self-centered, self-righteous, etc.) I was, I can cringe. But I didn't know how to be anything other than what I was. Until the STEPS.

I didn't understand what "work the steps" meant. How do you do that? Like I said earlier, my sponsorship was weak at best for the first two years. Since then I have been taught that if I get alone, with pen and paper, write down what is going on, write down my process of going from Step 1 through Step 9, and talk about it with my sponsor, that I will find freedom from self. It took me too long to discover that. But I least now I can pass it on to others who want it.

I have been dry and I have been sober. Sober is better. AA does work.

I certainly have a long way to go, however I am enjoying the journey today. I hope that you are also.

Have a great day!

Marilyn F.

Alternate Delegate – Panel 68



# SPIRITUAL ANONYMITY

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Hello, I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. When Julio contacted me about this discussion panel, the topic of Spiritual Anonymity immediately came to me. Though I have not found anything on this specific topic in our literature, I have found a lot of great examples scattered throughout. The only people I have really talked to about it have been my sponsor, guys that I sponsor, and close friends. I have found it best to try to be an example of what I believe. Before I start to talk on this topic, let me give you some examples of what it is not.

"I am the Chairperson of this committee, and this is how we are going to do it."  
"I have been coming to this group longer than any of you and I know what is best." "That big party we did last week, that was my idea." Funny behavior, yes, but I am sure we all can put a familiar face to some of it.

I'm talking about the ability to be nameless and faceless in the work we do here in Alcoholics Anonymous. To have the immediate desire to give of myself whenever possible, without any thought of myself. Doing the work we are supposed to be doing, without having any thoughts, expectations, or desires of recognition. Caring more about what we are doing and less about attaching our names to it. I think very importantly so, for the current Delegates in the room that were at the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference, and for those of you whose

names we don't yet know, who will be joining us at the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. How can we best do the work of guaranteeing the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, if our primary concerns are of how we will appear to others, or being overly concerned with making sure our names are said and our voices are heard. This can be a very difficult task for people like us, especially when we know that we have acquired certain knowledge along the way to get here.

The short form of Tradition Twelve reads: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." This tells me that Anonymity and Spirituality can and should be found in all of our traditions.

## A FEW SIMPLE EXAMPLES:

Tradition One- Do I really believe I am just a small part of a great whole within my Group? Or do I believe that it is my beliefs that must be heard? The health of the group being of the up most importance, we must all work equally together, without any personal motivations. The Group will better function when there is no individual ownership. There can be no individual desires. Our thoughts must always be of all.

Tradition Two- Do I think that our group conscience is a debate that I must win, or do I express the facts that I know, and let God be the ultimate authority? In our group discussion, kindly giving our views on the topic at hand, and listening to that of others. Raising our hand, in

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

representation of our beliefs, without concern of how others cast their vote.

Tradition Seven- Do I make a big deal to make sure others know that I am putting in or how much I am putting into the basket? Or is this my own anonymous spiritual connection to my Group and to Alcoholics Anonymous? I can say that I have gotten very mechanical with my contribution to the basket. I now take a moment to consider what my contribution means to the still suffering as my hand touches the basket.

Tradition Nine- Rotation being one of our greatest spiritual principles. Silently moving from my past position, giving the next person the same opportunity to have his or her own experience, just as I had. And while we hold our position, giving that our complete attention, setting aside any desires for future positions.

The long form of Tradition Twelve reads, and I now believe we should always refer to the long form, "And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all." Telling me that without humility there can be no true anonymity, and without anonymity there can be no true humility. And without anonymity, and humility we cannot act with true responsibility to Alcoholics Anonymous. Anything that I have within me today

has been given to me because of the time others have given to me. I must always have the desire to give that time to someone who needs it.

I don't want to really get into social networking and personal web sites, because I believe someone else will be covering this. But, what about those of us that insist that we must post a daily quote from our literature, or put our daily personal thought of so called growth or achievement up for all the world to see. How spiritual, or how anonymous do we really think we are?

I had told Julio that I did not intend to write anything, but to get up here and wing it. I have to say that writing this presentation was a great opportunity to inventory my relationship with all of you. I look forward to the next year and a half, as we do this spiritual work together, to anonymously work to guarantee the future of this thing that saved our lives.

*by Anonymous*

## The Pink Can in Northern Illinois

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A lot of people have questions regarding the Pink Can in Northern Illinois. How does it work? Why does it sometimes seem to have a lot of money in it? What is the flow of money from District or meeting to NIA? How are Pink Can funds distributed?

*Continued on page 9*

*Continued from page 8*

In 2018, a total of \$9,675 was disbursed from the Pink Can in Northern Illinois. After every Area Committee Meeting and Assembly my report will be on the NIA Website so that anyone can see how the money was spent (the report will encompass the entire year).

When a District or a meeting sends Pink Can money to the NIA Treasurer (it must be earmarked "pink can" on the envelope), the Treasurer adds it to the spreadsheet of available Pink Can funds and it goes into the NIA bank account. Since these are funds for a "stated purpose", they are allowed to accumulate.

When I receive a request from either a corrections facility, a volunteer in corrections, or someone who is designated by a jail or prison to provide literature, I then order the literature and have it sent to the address they request. It's ordered from AAWS and shipped from there. It's helpful if the order is more than \$500 because, at that point, shipping is free. Shipping is very expensive under \$500.

If you volunteer in a Correction facility and feel that your facility is in need of literature, please contact me (Corrections Chair, through the NIA website) and I'll be happy to order what you need. Keep in mind, I cannot decide to disburse funds without a literature request.

I am happy to come to your District meeting to explain the Pink Can, or to have a workshop in your District.

In Service,

Dawn B

NIA 20 Corrections Chair

## A GENTLE NUDGE

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In the Summer of 2017, I received Concepts Newsletter in the mail and to be honest, this was one of the first times I had sat down and read it in its entirety. Don't get me wrong, I am all for A.A. literature slipping its way into my hands, but time is usually crunched and I tell myself, "I'll read it later." This time was different and I can't tell you how or why exactly, let's just say there was a 'gentle nudge' from above.

In that particular issue there were a few things that struck a chord deep within. First, there was the submission from Kelly L. Panel 66, now, past Delegate, who at the time had just returned from the 67th General Service Conference. She spoke of the three sides of the A.A. triangle: recovery, unity and service. This got me thinking of my own triangle, was mine balanced? Was one side heavier than the other?

I continued on to the next essay, written by a Rich H. Panel 62 past Delegate, titled "Choosing our Best Possible Leaders, Even If It's You!! " There were several things included in his piece that resonated, but I will spare you of lengthy drivel and focus on one of these points. His words were this, "THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX and ask

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued from page 9*

yourself, IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO? AND IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?" Again, this got me thinking and the self examination process began to go deeper. I don't know when I adopted the idea that I am not good enough or smart enough, somehow the fears and self doubt became very evident in that moment. In fact, they had been standing in my way of usefulness to God and my fellows. I paused for a few moments and talked to God, admitting that my fears had returned. Low and behold, the willingness to walk through them came back. I closed this brief moment of prayer and picked up the newsletter again.

As I proceeded to read on the presence of my Higher Power was with me, loud and clear. Concept IX followed Rich's passage and "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need," smacked me right in the face. Of course another question came to mind, "am I a leader or not?" Well I certainly had been in positions of (humble/not-so-humble) leadership, but where I was at currently? That question was easy to answer, I had settled into a lesser role and was doing the bare minimum...OUT OF FEAR!

After finishing the newsletter, I thumbed back through to the writing from our Editor. Heather S. had mentioned that the position of Co-Editor was available and that this person would essentially, have the opportunity to serve as Editor in the future. And BOOM, there it was...the next service opportunity had presented itself. I immediately sat down at my computer,

mocked up a newsletter and fired off my "resume" and quasi newsletter.

I sat back in my chair, lovingly eyeing the sent email and thought of the time when I participated in a workshop hosted in my local district, "Finding Your Niche." At that time I was serving as the district BTG co-chair. I loved that work, I was on fire, but that flame had since burnt out. I had been floating around and without a passion, I might add. Now the passion was back and it felt good. Serving as the Concepts Co-Editor was a marvelous experience and I enjoyed every minute of it. I am beyond grateful that I now have the opportunity to serve as your Editor. For the sake of transparency, there was some hesitation as I sat down to write this piece. The thoughts of inadequacy returned, but there it was again, 'the gentle nudge' from above. To paraphrase a quote by Mother Theresa, I don't do great things, I do small things with great passion...and yes, a lot of help from God.

In Loving Service,

Jessica R.

## **PASS IT ON!**

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I was one of the few hearty souls who braved the storm to attend the Grapevine workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a simple agenda with time given to a few people to talk of their relationship to the Grapevine.

*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 10*

Our area archivist, Ray, shared a historical look at the birth and growth of our meeting in print. He showed the origin of some things that we are exposed to in today's meetings. He introduced us to some of the people whose vision and toil insured the magazine's initial success.

The other speakers told of personal experiences in their districts and some ways to redistribute old issues. They both had ideas on how to promote interest and stimulate subscriptions. Speaking of subscriptions, 10 were raffled off at the end of the day.

I walked away from that workshop glad that I came. I learned a little history and was able to show support for an important tool in my sobriety.

My relationship with the Grapevine started when we were first introduced in a treatment center. The year was 1986 and I was sure that I was too young to be a *real alcoholic* because I was only 35. There were old copies in the lounge that were left there by visiting sober AA members. I noticed a copy that had the topic, "Too Young." I found an article by someone older than me who had the same feeling. I was told to "look for the similarities, not the differences", and I did. To this day I still do, when I open a copy. When I am done with it, I Pass It On.

by Jim H.

## **Do you LOVE Service?**

### **HELP WANTED!!**

The area is still in need of a Concepts Co-Editor, is this you?

#### **Concepts Co-Editor Responsibilities:**

- Manage the mailing database
- Solicit submissions of articles
- Assist the Editor as needed

***Remember this is an appointed position, if you are interested please contact the Area Chair for more information.***

**Give the Gift of Grapevine  
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Concepts is published quarterly by the Northern Illinois Area of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is intended as a form of communication between Northern IL Area, Districts, and GSRs.

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Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the thinking of Alcoholics Anonymous, NIA or the Editor.

Comments, suggestions, subscription requests, and experience, strength and hope, should be directed to the editor:  
[Concepts@aa-nia.org](mailto:Concepts@aa-nia.org)

All A.A. members are encouraged to see Concepts on-line at: <http://www.aa-nia.org>

The current address for the NIA Treasurer is:

PO Box 524  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524

CONCEPTS is a confidential document. It should be used and distributed within the Fellowship.

**Due date for Summer issue  
of Concepts Newsletter is  
May 10, 2019.**

# Announcements

**March 23** Spring Assembly. West Ridge Community Church - 3300 Encounter Ln, Elgin, IL. Registration starts at 8am

**April 13** Spring Committee meeting Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL-38 Elburn, IL 60119

**May 4** Pre-General Conference Workshop. Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL-38 Elburn, IL

**May 11** Fox Valley Open. Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva, IL.

**May 19-25** 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. New York

**June 22** Summer Assembly. District 12. More information TBA

**July 12-14** East Central Regional Forum in Detroit, MI

**Aug 3** Summer Committee meeting Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL-38 Elburn, IL 60119

**Aug 9 – Aug 11** 2019 AA Illinois State Conference @ Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel 3000 Warrenville Rd Lisle, IL 60532

**Sept 14** Fall Assembly. TBA

**Oct 12** Fall Committee Meeting Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL-38 Elburn, IL 60119

**Oct 18 – Oct 20** East Central Regional Conference – Area 75 @ Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport 6401 South 13th Street Milwaukee, WI

**Nov 2** Big Book Conference. District 23 & 40. More information TBA

**Dec 7** Winter Assembly. District 11. More information TBA

# NIA 20 SPRING ASSEMBLY

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 22



## WHEN

**MARCH 23, 2019**

REGISTRATION & COFFEE 8 AM

MEETING 9 AM

LUNCH AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED

LUNCH COST: TBD

## WHERE

**WESTRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

3300 ENCOUNTER LANE

ELGIN, IL 60124

## QUESTIONS

CONTACT: DAN S. (847) 401-8681 OR JOE B. (847) 707-1840

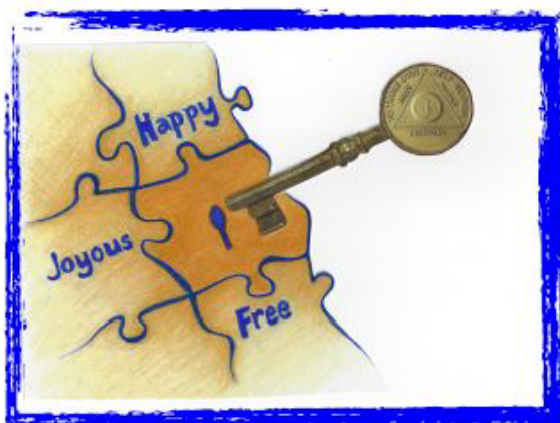


### DIRECTIONS:

WESTRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH IS  
LOCATED OFF OF ROUTE 20, 1.3 MILES  
WEST OF RANDALL RD. OR 8.3 MILES  
EAST OF ROUTE 47



SPANISH INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE /  
INTERPRETACIÓN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE



## Happy, Joyous, & Free!

**46th Annual A.A. Illinois State Conference**

**August 9th, 10th & 11th 2019**

**Hosted by District 43 & Northern IL Area 20**

**Sheraton Lisle-Naperville Hotel**

**3000 Warrenville Rd. Lisle, IL 60532**

**[sheratonlisle.com](http://sheratonlisle.com) ph. 630-505-1000**

**Room rate starting at \$99.00 (King) and  
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[www.aailcon.org](http://www.aailcon.org)  
Contact:  
Erik L. 630-809-7789  
George C. 630-244-5570**

**MAIN SPEAKERS:**  
Friday: Tim R.—Hinsdale, IL  
Saturday: Sharon C.—Los Angeles, CA  
Sunday: Mark E.—Chesapeake, OH  
Sunday: Rick W.—New York GSO

**Conference Start:**  
Friday August 9th 2:00 PM  
Registration Desk Hours:  
Friday 2:00–9:00 pm  
Saturday 7:00 am–8:00 PM  
Sunday 7:00 am



**For any accessibility needs please let us know by July 1st 2019**

Our email is: [conference@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:conference@aa-nia-dist43.org)

(Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests).



### ***Conference Registration by mail, no later than 08/01/2019***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet: \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet choices circle one. 1. Thyme Chicken 2. Vegan 3. Gluten free options

Please Specify (all that apply) : AA \_\_\_\_\_, Area: \_\_\_\_\_, District: \_\_\_\_\_,

Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_, Panel: \_\_\_\_\_, Guest: \_\_\_\_\_, Al-Anon: \_\_\_\_\_,

Alateen: \_\_\_\_\_ (no registration fee for Alateen)

**Mailing Address:**

District 43  
P.O. Box 5390  
Woodridge, Illinois  
60517-5390

Make Checks payable to:

**Northern Illinois  
Area, Ltd.**

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