



SOBER TIMES

February 2025

News from around District 26, Area 32

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The purpose of the District 26 Unity Council is to educate AA Groups and the public on AA principles and to promote harmony among AA groups through the practice of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. We are a fellowship of alcoholics from different groups within the district that encourages participation and service.

Schedule of Events

February 2nd – CMIA 32 Meeting. Doors open 8:30 AM. Meeting starts at 9:30 AM. Lunch provided. Closes at 3 PM. Z Hall – 1775 Owosso Avenue, Owosso. Visit CMIA32.org for information on how to join by zoom.

February 15th – Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, come join the EMS Serenity Group on M 72! Doors open at 6 PM for fellowship and snacks, candle light meeting at 7. Bring your favorite snack, sweet or finger food to share, then your experience, strength and hope for a candle light closed discussion meeting. Alcona County EMS. 2600 Michigan 72, Harrisville.

February 27th – Grace on the Base, Potluck and Open Speaker meeting. Mostaccioli will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. Doors open at 5, Dinner at 5:30, Speaker; Nate E. at 6 PM. Grace Community Church, 6012 North Skeel Avenue, Oscoda.

March 7-9th – March Roundup. Motor City Motel, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI. More information and registration at www.aa-semi.org/MRU2025

March 15th – District 26 Unity Council Meeting. Coffee, donuts and Fellowship at 9:30 AM, Meeting at 10 AM. Grace Community Church, 6012 North Skeel Avenue, Oscoda.

March 22nd – Spirituality A.A. Workshop. 10AM to 3PM. Lunch and Workshop Materials will be provided. RSVP online at Dist26aa.org or phone Nick T. at 810-730-3829. Hale Methodist Church, 201 W. Main Street, Hale. Zoom Meeting ID: 394 501 0116. Password: Spirituality.

March 22nd – Michigan Mock Conference. 9 AM to 4 PM. 400 South Main Street, Mount Pleasant, MI. Pre-register at: www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-michigan-mock-conference-tickets-1039416642157

July 3-6th – 2025 A.A. International Convention, Vancouver, BC, Canada. AA.org/International-Convention

Responsibility Statement

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.

STEP TWO:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

TRADITION TWO:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

CONCEPT TWO:

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in world affairs.



Heard at a Meeting

Feelings are not caused by others, but rather our reactions to others.

“Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted – to understand, than to be understood – to love, than to be loved.” (12 & 12 page 99)

Whoever seeks God has already found God.

The heart of AA is the act of one person giving to another.

So oftentimes it happens that we live our lives in chains and we never even know we have the key.

All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. – St. Francis of Assisi

You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.

Stronger Together

These Groups Could Use Your Support

What better way to widen your recovery experience and to demonstrate AA unity and support than to visit a new place, meet some new faces and hear different recovery experiences than by visiting one of these groups? For more service opportunities, several of these meetings also need volunteers or recommendations for open speakers. A friend and I recently visited the Roscommon Serenity Sisters on this list. It was a fun and snowy drive to a place I'd never been before, getting to know a fellow AA a little better on the before the meeting and after the meeting drive. An AA kitchen meeting and reading from the book Experience, Strength and Hope was all new to me. I found branching out with these wonderful women to be a fabulous boost to my program. It's my sincerest hope that we somehow blessed them at least half as much as being there blessed me on my journey. As always, if your group needs some extra support, or is having a special event you'd like mentioned, contact me, Holly C., with the details by either text or e-mail. Phone: 248-302-5728 E-mail: HLC71014@gmail.com Please mention Sober Times Submission in the subject line.

Clare; Tuesday 8 PM, Friday 8 PM and Saturday Noon; United Methodist Church, 105 E. 7th Street, Clare.

East Tawas; Tuesday 7 PM, Holy Family Catholic Church, 516 West Lincoln Street, East Tawas.

East Tawas; Friday 7 PM, Christ Episcopal Church, 202 West Westover Street, East Tawas.

Harrisville; Saturday 7 PM, Alcona County EMS, 2600 Michigan 72, Harrisville.

Houghton Lake; Wednesday Noon at The Northern Center, 7784 Stone School Rd., Houghton Lake.

Mikado; Sunday 7 PM, Mikado Community of Christ, 3155 East Mikado Rd., Mikado.

Oscoda; Thursday 12 Noon Big Book, Church of Christ, 5726 Cedar Lake Rd., Oscoda.

Oscoda; Thursday 6 PM Big Book Meeting, Grace Community Church, 6012 N. Skeel Avenue, Oscoda. Last Thursday is an open speaker meeting and potluck. Still needs open speaker volunteers for April through October.

Prescott; Skidway Lake Group, Judson Baptist Church, 201 Harrison Road, Prescott. Last Saturday is an open speaker meeting. Needs open speaker volunteers.

Roscommon; Morning Gratitude, Mondays and Fridays, 7 AM, River Center, 211 N. Main St., Roscommon.

Roscommon; Women's Meeting; Serenity Sisters, Mondays at 7 PM, Study Meeting, contact Amy at 989-273-9382 for location and details. Currently reading Experience, Strength and Hope. Next up; Back to Basics. Open to having an open speaker.

Roscommon; Thursday 7 PM, HOW Group, Methodist Church, 1515 N. M-18, Roscommon. Also needs open speaker volunteers.

Sterling; Sunday 8 PM, Second Chance Group, Wesleyan Church, 365 West Jefferson Street, Sterling.

Whittemore; Monday 8 PM 12 & 12, United Methodist Church, 110 North St., Whittemore.

Unity Council News

District 26 Unity Council met once again in Au Gres on January 18th to welcome in the new board members. There was a large and impressive showing of approximately 35 people that included visitors, GSRs and new service members. As impressive as the turn out was, there is still hope and a vision that at future meetings we will be welcoming GSRs from each and every group that meets within the district.

Discussion included a treasury report with a projected budget of \$3,311.00 for 2025. The prudent reserve will presently stay at \$750.00. During the 2024 year, a total of \$3,800.00 in donations was received from the groups within the district. The estimated expense budget for 2025 includes; \$300 for rent and \$240 for donut payments for district meetings, \$276 for the grasshopper line, \$220 for the website, \$25 for a tax document, \$250 for the district picnic and \$2,000 for 4 workshops throughout the year. During the meeting a request was submitted by the PICPC committee for \$100 to purchase literature to distribute in the jails and throughout the community. The request was unanimously approved along with praise for the committee members for bringing the message of AA to the professional community as well as those incarcerated.

The workshop committee reported on their progress regarding the upcoming Spirituality workshop. Amongst discussion was that the workshop would be available for viewing via a Zoom account that has just been purchased for District and the workshop use. Although there was concern regarding anonymity at the level of press, radio, films (and internet) that having the workshop on Zoom would not be violating that tradition as the workshop will not be recorded, anyone attending will know ahead of time that it will be an open meeting and accessible to people via Zoom. (More details are available on the "Spirituality Workshop" article in this newsletter).

Discussion ensued regarding the Grasshopper line. It was determined that volunteers would be informed when their name was back up in the rotation to receive calls. Discussion also ensued regarding if they could have a list of resources to consult for referring callers to people and meetings within the area that they were calling from. No definite decision or plan of action was decided on at this point in time.

Groups were encouraged to submit a group history form to area 32 archivist, Jim D. Due to limited space and to save paper and ink, a group history form isn't going to be included here. One can be obtained by a quick Google search of "AA group history form". The newsletter editor, Holly C., will bring a few blank Group History forms to the next Unity Council meeting in Oscoda.

The final portion of the meeting was comprised of the individual reports by the GSRs in attendance. Many GSR's reported thriving groups. Of note was a GSR who reported his group thriving after doing a group inventory and following suggestions that were learned at "The AA Group; Where it all begins" workshop. Several groups requested extra support (See them listed in the "Stronger Together" section of this newsletter). Another group on the list reported a new energy in their group that formed a core group for a group conscience and brainstorming on changes to make to bring more life and vitality to their group.

The next District 26 Unity Council meeting will be held on March 15th in Oscoda at Grace Community Church, North Skeel Avenue, fondly referred to as "Grace on the Base". Coffee, donuts and fellowship will be at 9:30 AM with the meeting following at 10 AM. The hope is that even a larger group will attend with even more representation from every corner of the district.

The first meeting of the new year and new service members was a positive and hope filled hour and a half. There is an excitement and level of commitment to the ongoing health and strength of this recovery community. All are encouraged to attend our next meeting and the area meeting in Owosso on February 2nd.

“Spirituality” A District 26 AA Workshop

Clear your calendars now and make your reservation to attend the next District 26 AA workshop on Saturday, March 22. The workshop committee has been hard at work planning the spirituality workshop using multiple pamphlets, the Big Book and the power of Zoom. The location will be the same as past workshops at the Hale Methodist Church, 201 W. Main St, Hale, Michigan 48739. New to this workshop is that it will be accessible via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 394 501 0116 Password: Spirituality.

The workshop will begin at 10 AM and will last until approximately 3 PM. Lunch and all workshop materials will be provided. As this is a district sponsored workshop there is absolutely no fee to attend and no donations will be collected. They are very strongly requesting that participants RSVP so that they have an accurate head count for both lunch and materials. Please contact Nick T at 810-730-3829 or online at dist26aa.org. Each participant will receive the book, “Came to Believe” and the three pamphlets that they will be referencing; “Where money and spirituality mix”, “Many paths to Spirituality” and “The ‘God’ Word”. In addition to these pamphlets they will be referencing the Big Book Appendix II, “Spiritual Experience”.

Even more exciting than those materials are that speakers from many different faiths from around the world will be joining our group in Hale via Zoom for an approximate 15-minute spot on their particular faith. Included in those religions covered will be Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and *possibly* a Native American speaker. (Still in the works at the time of this printing).

Workshop member Amy S. hopes that a takeaway for attendees of this workshop is that they know that “no matter where you come from on the religious spectrum, you will find a God of your understanding”. There are no limits or rules that can keep a person from grasping the spiritual principles of AA to lead to sobriety. For those attending that are quite comfortable in their religion or spiritual path, participation at this workshop might expand their beliefs or help them to better understand and communicate the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic that they may come in contact with.

Don’t forget to RSVP, and if you can’t come in person, join by Zoom. More than anything, bring an open mind and a desire to enhance your spiritual journey.

The District 26 Sober Times Newsletter

NEEDS YOU!

**Share your experience Strength and Hope
with our Recovery Community! Make our
District 26 Sober Times a mini-Grapevine!**

Do you have a special insight or story on one of the steps, traditions or concepts? Are you an AA history buff who would like to share your knowledge? Submit your story! Try and keep it to 800 words or less, submit it by the 15th of the month prior to the month your story might be relevant to. (For example, by February 15 for a step 3 story for printing in the March Sober Times.)

Did you hear an exceptional phrase or saying at a meeting? Submit a “Heard at a Meeting” quote. Did you have any recovery related experience that you would like to share? Perhaps it was on sponsorship, service, fellowship, the family afterward? Anything. Don’t be shy, share your experience strength and hope with the Sober Times!

Do you have a meeting or event that could use some extra support? Let us know! The WE of the program kicks in when WE know where help is needed.

Send your submissions, ideas and comments to me, Holly C. at hlc71014@gmail.com In the subject line type “Sober Times Submission”. Indicate whether you would like your first name and last initial plus your city or homegroup name and city included. If possible, leave a contact number so if I have any questions or wish to edit your submission I can receive permission.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be your Sober Times editor and I so look forward to hearing what all of you, my AA family, has to say!

Holly C