

# SOBER TIMES

August 2024

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.*

## 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.

## Schedule of Events

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – New Life Zoom Group 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Picnic, South Higgins Lake State Park, Boat Launch Pavilion. 12 to 5 PM.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>** – CMIA Area 32 Meeting. 9 AM to 3 PM. Dawson Administration Building, 220 Lamson St., Grand Ledge.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** - Friends of Bill W. Picnic. 12 – 5 PM. Food, Speaker, DJ / Karaoke. Oasis Lake Park, 30 South M-76 between Sterling and Alger.

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Annual District 26 AA Picnic. Open A.A. meeting at 11 AM followed by lunch, fun and games. Bring a chair, a guest, a dish to pass or a fun game. Most of all, be sure to join for wonderful sober fellowship. Au Sable Township Childrens Park, Oscoda.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>** – Grace on the Base Pot Luck and Speaker Meeting. Picnic Style dinner at 5:30, Speaker Bruce at 6PM. Bring a guest and a dish to pass. 6012 North Skeel Avenue., Oscoda.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** – Clear Lake Daily Reprieve Group – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Pot Luck and Speaker Meeting. Doors open at 4PM, Potluck at 5, Speaker, Dan B. at 6. Bring a dish to pass, pork loin and pulled pork sandwiches provided. Clear Lake Township Hall, 1968 Clear Lake Rd., West Branch.

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – District 26 Unity Council Meeting. Coffee and Donuts 9:30, meeting at 10 AM. United Methodist Church, 110 North St., Whittemore.

**October 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>** – Michigan Women’s Conference. Garland Resort in Lewiston. For more information and registration visit [www.miwcaa.com](http://www.miwcaa.com)

All these flyers and more on [www.dist26aa.org](http://www.dist26aa.org)

**STEP EIGHT:** Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

**TRADITION EIGHT:** Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

**CONCEPT EIGHT:** The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

*The AA Service Manual P. C24*

## HEARD AT A MEETING

THROW IN THE TOWEL, ADMIT DEFEAT AND CLAIM A VICTORY.

AA IS MY “GOD WITH SKIN ON”.

ALL TIME SPENT ANGRY IS TIME LOST BEING HAPPY.

WE FIND COMFORT AMONG THOSE WHO AGREE WITH US – GROWTH AMONGST THOSE WHO DON’T.

TEMPER GETS US IN TROUBLE, PRIDE KEEPS US THERE.

## Stronger Together!

These groups could use your support

**East Tawas;** Tuesday 7 PM, Holy Family Catholic Church, 411 Wilkinson 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.

**Roscommon; Early Birds!!!!** 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.

**Standish;** Monday 8 PM, Free Methodist Church, 495 N. Forest St., Standish.

**Sterling;** Sunday 8 PM, Wesleyan Church, 365 W. Jefferson St., Sterling.

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

If you have a group that could use some extra support, let us know and we'd be happy to include your group on this page. E-mail Holly at [HLC71014@gmail.com](mailto:HLC71014@gmail.com) or come to the next Unity Council Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> and let us know what we can do to help out.

## Service Opportunities

**Elections for Unity Council** are coming up in September. Most positions are available; DCM, Alternate DCM, Chair, Alternate Chair, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer will all be up for voting. Nominations have already started. Come to the September District meeting to cast your vote.

**Workshop Event Committee** for District 26 is now formed! The sponsorship workshop was a big hit! If you'd like to be involved in planning the next workshop which will be on "The AA Group" and be part of the committee, contact Jenny P. at 616-366-8038.

**AA Hotline** could use more contact people. If you're interested in having your name and number added to the list to receive phone calls from people in our district requesting help, please contact Mike R. through the info line or district e-mail.

**Public Information and the Professional Community** committees and people are something we could use some help with in our district. If you think that's something you'd be interested in, contact Joe through the district e-mail.

**Looking for GSR's** Does your home group have a GSR? Do you know what one is? For more information on what a GSR does and why they're such a valuable resource for the AA community come check out our next Unity council meeting in September or come to the Area meeting August 4<sup>th</sup>. District 26 is growing and such a vibrant recovery community, we would love to see all of the meetings in the district represented.

**Grapevine Magazines Wanted** for the area corrections committee to bring into the jails. If you have extra magazines you could donate, please contact Joe through the district e-mail at [District26.aa.area32@gmail.com](mailto:District26.aa.area32@gmail.com)

**Sober Times** for District 26 could use your help and support! Do you have a special take on, or story related to recovery, or a great quote heard at a meeting? Share it here with the recovery community of district 26. Send any thoughts, suggestions or submissions to Holly C at [HLC71014@gmail.com](mailto:HLC71014@gmail.com).

## Unity Council Update

The July Unity Council Meeting at the beautiful Houghton Lake Alano Club was well-attended by many guests and GSRs from all throughout the district. During the meeting, nominations were made and accepted for all positions that will be coming open. Our nominees are; for DCM, Dennis B., the alternate DCM nominee is Amy S. For the position of Chair, Stan T. has been nominated and the alternate chair position nominee is Joe S., Secretary Dick D., Alternate Secretary, Nick T. For the Treasurer position Paula E. has thrown her name in the running and Dave N. volunteered for alternate Treasurer. For an alternate Webmaster Tammy R. was nominated. Final nominations and voting will take place at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Whittemore at the United Methodist Church, 110 North Street. All A.A. members, and especially all GSRs, are encouraged and welcome to come. The doors will open at 9 AM, coffee, donuts and fellowship at 9:30. The meeting will begin at 10 AM.

Also decided at the meeting was that a \$400.00 donation will be made to General Service Offices in New York and a \$200.00 donation will be made to Area 32. Joe S. inquired if obtaining funds for more resources for the Professional Community Outreach Program would be possible. It was agreed that could be done and he will come prepared with an exact quote to be voted on for approval at our next meeting.

It was also approved that the District would fund another round of business cards. If you or your group is in need of business cards that you would like to distribute, please send a request through the area e-mail, contact your

GSR, any committee member, or attend the next council meeting and we will be sure to get them to you.

According to Mike R., our information line could use more volunteers to help answer calls. Please announce this need at meetings and have anyone willing to have their name and number added to the call list please contact Mike R. of Tawas either by catching him at a meeting, the district picnic, or by e-mailing the area website or calling the information line.

Jenny P. gave an update on the special activities committee. After a very successful sponsorship workshop, the committee is now working on developing a workshop on, "The A.A. Group; where it all begins" and is hoping to have it ready to present come October. A Back-to-Basics Workshop is under consideration for another future workshop idea. If you're interested in participating on the workshop committee, please contact Jenny P. at 616-366-8038.

Although our meetings regularly meet on the third Saturday of odd numbered months, it was decided that the November meeting would be held on the SECOND Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, so as not to interfere with hunting season. The location will most likely be the River Center in Roscommon, but that has as of yet been confirmed.

From all of the participation and cooperation displayed at the Houghton Lake meeting it's evident that our district is truly making huge strides towards promoting harmony, participation and service throughout all of our District. Join the excitement of our district by attending the district picnic August 24<sup>th</sup>, and join in on any Unity Council meeting.

### A Note from The Editor

I've recently come across various articles and suggestions at different meetings I've attended that I felt were quite thought provoking. Last month we printed a handout on "Responsibility" put out by the Ferndale A.A. office. For me, that really made me think about how seriously I, and different groups I attend, fully embrace the responsibility statement and stand by our Primary Purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics achieve sobriety. In the spirit of our next District Workshop on "The A.A. Group", and the upcoming Women's Conference theme of "Our Primary Purpose", I felt this following article on meeting etiquette warranted definite consideration as well, both for my own personal shares, and for the groups I attend as a whole. Of course, according to the Fourth Tradition; "Every Group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole", these are not rules. These are ideas and suggestions which others may find interesting, thought provoking, and may wish to consider while attending their current meetings, or if the thought of starting a new A.A. group is in their plans. My hope is that these articles I happen upon and share here, only enrich your recovery, your group, and A.A. as a whole.

In your service,  
Holly C.

## A.A. Meeting Etiquette

[www.aacleve.org](http://www.aacleve.org)

Recently, I have attended several meetings where things have gotten out of hand: I've heard rants about child services, rants about the government, and strained to hear when screaming toddlers ran in circles around their parent's table. Whether it is talking for an excessive amount of time, venturing into a rant, cross talking, or bringing up issues other than alcoholism, these are behaviors that we need to correct for the welfare of everyone attending a meeting.

We also need to remember that we are Alcoholics Anonymous, not Narcotics Anonymous. Open meetings welcome addicts, but our Primary Purpose is to talk about staying away from a drink one day at a time, not the heroin epidemic that is devastating our state. While it is the responsibility of the chairperson to move things back to order, if that chairperson is young in sobriety, they may not be confident enough to interrupt someone who is off track. When that happens, I think

more experienced members need to speak up and gently remind the "offender" that they are outside the format of the meeting.

Maybe we need to include some etiquette parameters in the opening announcements; reminders that kids are welcome, but that they need to be on "church behavior" for the hour. Likewise, a reminder that we don't cross talk or give advice, and that as we read in the opening remarks, please remember that we don't share opinions on outside issues.

When meetings go sideways, with rants or excessive religiosity, etc. there's risk of giving a new person in attendance the wrong impression of A.A. And there's always the chance that we've cheated someone who really needed a meeting, from hearing the message they needed to hear to stay sober for that day. We all have a responsibility to steer our meetings back to order, firmly and kindly, for the good of the Fellowship.