

DISTRICT 41 MESSENGER

District 41 of Northern Illinois Area 20 Serving
Addison, Bensenville, Elmhurst, Oakbrook Terrace,
Villa Park & Wood Dale

SPRING 2021

Edition 24

STARTING THE YEAR OFF POSITIVE

Encouraging Words from the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of A.A. World Services wishes each and every member of our Fellowship and their loved ones the happiest New Year. As we reflect back on the extraordinary events that we all have been experiencing it is with hearts full of gratitude that we say thank you to each and every group and member for all of the spectacular work of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic that has taken place in these difficult times.

For many, this meant pivoting our groups to be online. For some, greeters became temperature screeners, enthusiastically encouraging mask use. In many of our meetings the coffee maker position went away and the online meeting host position appeared. As our many local A.A. offices met unsure financial outlooks, groups across the U.S. and Canada figured out how to make their Seventh Tradition support digital and supported one another as a whole. Service workers across the Fellowship worked from home, often tired and understaffed. As the pandemic pushed surges in binge drinking to new heights, our groups met the challenge head on and introduced a new generation of alcoholics to our program who have been sober for months now and have never even experienced an in-person meeting. The best is surely yet to come.

In the early months of 2020, many would not have imagined we could carry our message as fully, as far and as freely as we have online in the last 9-10 months. Some would have actively argued it could not be done. As a society, A.A. has never faced these challenges before. With no historical reference point for us to look to, after 85 years we faced a new pioneering period.

A.A. members everywhere responded, adapted, and met calamity with serenity. We are a resilient lot. We have seen clearly that the message of A.A. and the lifesaving experience of our membership need not be limited by time, space, or custom. We are held up by 36 spiritual principles in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts that we can absolutely rely on to guide us through any uncertainty or challenge ahead.

Continued on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A letter from AAWS	1
Monthly Grapevine ZOOM	2
D41 Meeting Status Update	3
Thanks from AAWS Public Info	3
Clean House	5
AA Founders' Day 2021	6

District 41 Treasurer
PO Box 7226
Villa Park, IL 60181

District 41 Answering Service
PO Box 6365
Villa Park, IL 60181

Websites

dupage41aa.org
aa-nia.org



Continued from page 1

START THE YEAR OF RIGHT!

Encouraging Words from the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors

We understand more clearly today the importance of prudence and why we keep a reserve. We have new appreciation for group conscience and its ability to be found even over great distances. Our primary purpose served to keep us unified and as a buoy in uncertain times where being of service to others has helped us through the storm. The evidence of these events over the last year make clear that our legacies of Unity, Service, and Recovery remain strong. We as a board are rejuvenated with hope for a new year ahead and all the great opportunity that awaits as the world begins the slow process of recovery from the pandemic.

Covid-19 has brought very hard, and sometimes tragic events to many among us and around us. In taking stock, these circumstances have forced a crack in our rigidity and created light where before there was only a glimmer. If we leave room for that light to grow and adhere steadfastly to our principles, we can confidently face any uncertainty ahead. As we continue meeting this challenge and those ahead, let us together continue to "grow in understanding and effectiveness," constantly working toward ensuring that any person needing the message of Alcoholics Anonymous can find it, and that together we preserve that message for the generations of alcoholics still to come.

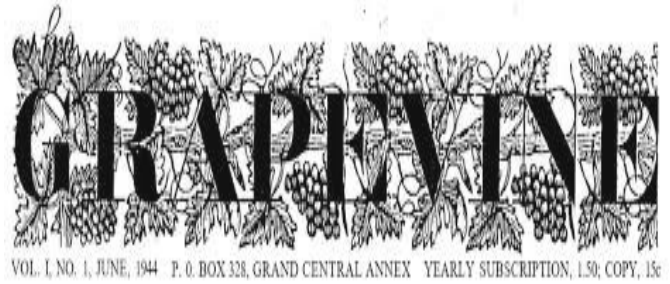
Yours in service,

Beau B., Chairperson

A.A.W.S. Board



"Later on, after work, do you want to have leftovers?"



NIA 20 PRESENTS GRAPEVINE MONTHLY WORKSHOP

Join Northern Illinois Area 20 for a
ZOOM Grapevine Workshop -
2nd Thursday of every month
through December 2021

Time: 7:00 –8:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Apr 8, 2021 07:00 PM

May 13, 2021 07:00 PM

Jun 10, 2021 07:00 PM

Jul 8, 2021 07:00 PM

Aug 12, 2021 07:00 PM

Sep 9, 2021 07:00 PM

Oct 14, 2021 07:00 PM

Nov 11, 2021 07:00 PM

Dec 9, 2021 07:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83853282292>
pwd=MXFzdWRvb1k3NEdEZHIPL3MxdlpKUT09**

Meeting ID: 838 5328 2292

Passcode: grapevine

For more info : See Events at aa-nia.org

UPDATED STATUS OF DISITRICT 41 MEETINGS

Here is the status of D41 meetings taken from our District 41 Website (<https://dupage41aa.org>) as of 3/15/2020. Go to the website or meeting guide to get the information to join Zoom, phone meetings or the address of meetings that show a temporarily closed status. Check back regularly for updated status. If you have an update for a listed meeting please send the update in email form to dupage41aa@gmail.com.

SUNDAY

Time	Meeting/Location	
6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave
7:00 am	Serenity House Men's Meeting	Men Location Temporarily Closed
7:30 am	Nueva Luz (daily)	Nueva Luz 220 E Lake St #302
10:00 am	Sun Morning	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave
10:30 am	18 De Octubre (ver información)	Online Meeting
Noon	Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave
3:00 pm	Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave
6:00 pm	Serenity Seekers	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave
6:30 pm	Sunday Serenity Group	Location Temporarily Closed
7:00 pm	Couples in Recovery Group	Location Temporarily Closed
7:00 pm	Sunday Night Serenity Meeting	(Zoom only) Online Meeting
7:00 pm	La Caldera (daily)	La Caldera 108 W Green St
8:00 pm	Couriers Group	(Zoom available) Calvary Episcopal 105 W Maple St
8:30 pm	Sun Nite Step Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave

MONDAY

6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
10:00 am	Serenity Group	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 350 E Madison St	Lombard
10:30 am	Winning Woman Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
Noon	Mon Fellowship	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch Group	Church of the Brethren 15071 Luther Ave	Lombard
5:30 pm	AA Closed Meeting	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
6:30 pm	Home At Last	Location Temporarily Closed	Elmhurst
7:00 pm	More Will Be Revealed	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
7:00 pm	Broken Elevator	Online Meeting- ZOOM Anona Center East	Villa Park
7:30 pm	Monday Night Misfits	call for location	Lombard
7:30 pm	12&12 Group Men	Location Temporarily Closed	Elmhurst
7:30 pm	Nueva Luz	Nueva Luz 220 E Lake St #302	Addison
8:00 pm	Live & Learn or Drink & Die	Calvary Episcopal 105 W Maple St	Lombard
8:00 pm	Tioga Group	Location Temporarily Closed	Bensenville
8:00 pm	Monday Night Marauders	Location Temporarily Closed	Lombard
8:00 pm	Sunshine Group	Location Temporarily Closed	Addison
8:15 pm	Stepping Stones	In person and phone Christian Church 1336 S Villa	Villa Park
8:30 pm	Beginners Step Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
8:35 pm	Stove Touchers	Elmhurst Presbyterian Church 367 Spring Rd	Elmhurst

TUESDAY

6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
11:00 am	Big Book	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch Group	Church of the Brethren 15071 Luther Ave	Lombard
5:30 pm	Step Meeting	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
7:00 pm	Doctor to Doctor	Online Meeting -Zoom Anona East	Villa Park
7:00 pm	Our Primary Purpose	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park
7:00 pm	Four Seasons Step Group	Location Temporarily Closed	Lombard
7:00 pm	The Phoenix Group Women	Location Temporarily Closed	Lombard
7:30 pm	Nueva Luz (Daily)	Location Temporarily Closed Nueva Luz	Addison
8:00 pm	Elmhurst Open Group	Location Temporarily Closed	Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Elmhurst Presbyterian Church	Online Meeting-ZOOM	Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Slow Learners	Location Temporarily Closed	Addison
8:00 pm	Tues. Nite Big Book Group	First Church of Lombard 220 S Main St	Lombard
8:00 pm	Villa Park 12 & 12	Location Temporarily Closed	Villa Park
8:30 pm	Bikers in Recovery Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave	Villa Park

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

A Note of Thanks and a Request for Continued Cooperation.

Anonymity Letter to Media from the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous -January 2021

From time to time we reach out to our friends in the media to thank them for helping us observe our long-standing tradition of anonymity for members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

First, we'd like to express our thanks. From the beginning of A.A. over 85 years ago, we've recognized that word-of-mouth is not enough to carry the A.A. program's message of hope and recovery to the many people still suffering from alcoholism. We've needed help – and the media has been a vital part of this effort. Today we estimate that there are more than 2 million successfully recovering members of Alcoholics Anonymous in more than 180 countries, and much of this growth can be attributed to the willingness of journalists and media professionals around the world to take an interest in our Fellowship.

Second, we invite your ongoing cooperation in maintaining the anonymity of A.A. members.

Continued from page 3

The principle of anonymity is at the core of our Fellowship. Those who are reluctant to seek our help often overcome their fear if they are confident that their anonymity will be respected.

in addition, and perhaps less understood, our tradition of anonymity acts as a healthy guardrail for A.A. members, reminding us that we are a program of principles, not personalities, and that no individual A.A. member acts as a spokesperson of our Fellowship.

If an A.A. member is identified in the media, we ask that you please use first names only (e.g., Sofia M. or Ben T.) and that you not use images in which members' faces may be recognized. This helps to provide members with the security that anonymity can bring. Again, we thank you for your continued cooperation -- in helping to carry our message to those in need of it and for helping keep the focus on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous rather than any personalities.

If you would like to know more about A.A. you are welcome to visit the "Press/Media" section of aa.org. We hope you will take a moment to watch a brief video on why anonymity remains a vital principle in Alcoholics Anonymous. Our Fellowship does not comment on matters of public controversy, but we are happy to provide information about A.A. to anyone who seeks it.

Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous Contact: publicinfo@aa.org

Continued from page 3

UPDATED STATUS OF DISITRICT 41 MEETINGS

Go to the website or meeting guide to get the information to join Zoom, phone meetings or the address of meetings that show a temporarily closed status. Check back regularly for updated status. If you have an update for a listed meeting please send the update in email form to dupage41aa@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY

Time	Meeting/Location	
6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch Group	Online-Zoom Church of the Brethren Lombard
12:30 pm	Brown Bag	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
5:30 pm	Grapevine	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
7:00 pm	11th Step Prayer and Meditation	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
7:00 pm	Wednesday Serenity Group	Online ZOOM Etz Chaim Lombard
7:00 pm	Wood Dale Wednesday Disc	Location Temporarily Closed Wood Dale
7:00 pm	Elmhurst Splinters Group	Location Temporarily Closed St. Luke's Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Catacombs Group	Elmhurst Presbyterian Church 367 Spring Rd Elmhurst
8:08 pm	24 Hours a Day	Location Temporarily Closed Faith Evangelical Elmhurst
8:30 pm	Big Book	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park

THURSDAY

6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
10:00 am	10:00am Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch Group	Online-Zoom Church of the Brethren Lombard
5:30 pm	5:30 Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
6:45 pm	Atheists, Agnostics & Everyone	Location Temporarily Closed Lombard
7:00 pm	The Lighthouse Group	Online -ZOOM Bethel United Church Elmhurst
7:00 pm	Thursday Night Big Book Step Study Meeting	Online- ZOOM Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Men's Big Book Meeting	Location Temporarily Closed Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Mohawk Group	Location Temporarily Closed Bensenville
8:00 pm	Sober Living	Location Temporarily Closed St. Luke's Church Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Solution Seekers Group	Faith United Methodist 815 S Finley Rd Lombard
8:00 pm	Thursday Nite Fellowship Group	Location Temporarily Closed Elmhurst
8:00 pm	Villa Park Thursday Nite	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
8:00 pm	Washington Ardmore Group	Location Temporarily Closed St Paul's Villa Park
8:30 pm	Spiritual Kindergarten	- undefined Online-ZOOM Oakbrook Terrace/Villa Park

FRIDAY

6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
10:00 am	Women's Choice Women	Location Temporarily Closed St Luke Lutheran Elmhurst
12:30 pm	Fri Afternoon Step	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch Group	Online-Zoom Church of the Brethren Lombard
5:30 pm	Big Book	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
6:00 pm	Friends of Dr. Bob	Location Temporarily Closed Faith Evangelical Elmhurst
6:00 pm	Weekend Jump Start	Location Temporarily Closed St Paul Lutheran Villa Park
7:00 pm	Sisters in Sobriety-Women	Location Temporarily Closed St Philip's Addison
7:00 pm	Life After Lunacy	Faith Community United 192 S Center St Bensenville
7:30 pm	Women's Way Women	Location Temporarily Closed Serenity House Addison
7:30 pm	Oxford Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
7:30 pm	Excuse Makers Group Men	Location Temporarily Closed Bethel United Elmhurst
7:30 pm	Serenity House Men's	Location Temporarily Closed Serenity House Addison
8:00 pm	Resentmentville-Men	In person/Zoom 1st Congregational 235 S Kenilworth Elmhurst
8:00 pm	5X5	Location Temporarily Closed St Paul's Villa Park
8:00 pm	Anonymity Group Men	Loc. Temporarily Closed Faith United Methodist Lombard
8:00 pm	Step Sisters Group-Women	In person & Zoom Anona Center East Villa Park
8:00 pm	Lombard Kitchen Table Group	Online- ZOOM Lombard Mennonite Lombard
8:00 pm	Quarry Rats Group Men	In person/phone Trinity Lutheran 300 Ardmore Villa Park
8:05 pm	Brain Damaged Men	In person/Zoom Presb. Church 1099 S York St Elmhurst
8:30 pm	Hope Group	In person & Zoom Holy Trinity Lutheran 350 E Madison St Lombard
10:30 pm	Grapevine Candlelight	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park

SATURDAY

6:30 am	Early Birds	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
9:15 am	Genesis Group II	Location Temporarily Closed Christian Church Villa Park
10:00 am	Sat. Morning Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
3:00 pm	Genesis Group I	Location Temporarily Closed Christian Church Villa Park
3:00 pm	Saturday Discussion	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
8:00 pm	Saturday Open Speaker Group	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park
10:30 pm	Saturday Candle Light	Anona Center East 125 S Villa Ave Villa Park

Trust God, Clean House, Help Others

Dr. Bob

Clean House— Why We Do it

The onset of spring and everything that it stands for – renewal, rebirth, and growth – makes it the perfect time to consider making room for a better quality of sobriety in your life! In order to take in new things, we often have to make space by letting go of the things that no longer work for us. “Spring cleaning” when it comes to recovery from any addiction, is a renewal of the body, mind, and spirit; it is a way of celebrating an appreciation for our world and those in it, and banishing isolation and addiction. While participating in a 12-step program of recovery maintenance, people continue to do personal house cleaning because they realize that having conflicts with themselves, people, situations and the world they live in will surely put their sobriety at risk.

We know that getting clean and sober is one of the best things that you can do for ourselves and our family, however it’s no easy task. In fact, thinking about cleaning up the “wreckage of your past” is scary. When people are in active addiction the chaos and effects-although sometimes unintentional- are often widespread. Once people get clean and sober, those messes don’t just magically disappear. In sobriety, as human beings we naturally suffer a loss of patience, tolerance, and good will at times. Even though the tendency towards negativity or acting out on character defects becomes less, we still have temptations towards selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear.

We feel wonderful when our literal house is clean, so the same thing holds for a little spiritual cleaning too! By taking these actions we are allowing for ego deflation, so that compassionate actions based on a spiritual consciousness can increasingly predominate in our lives. It is suggested in this successful program of recovery to do some personal housecleaning, which most of us had never attempted to do before coming to AA. This amazing opportunity to right our wrongs by “cleaning house” entails doing things like taking a personal inventory of ourselves and our actions and practicing estimable acts. Cleaning house is about being able to achieve a higher quality of consistent sobriety. As you clean away the things that no longer serve you in recovery, remember to replace them with things that are! When we clean house we are allowing for a fresh new start of peace, love, surrender, and all the possibilities that come with long lasting sobriety.

Completing a 4th Step and 5th Step has been characterized as one of the most liberating processes by those recovering alcoholics that are committed to working the 12 Steps of AA. Most of us have found that additional inventory taking and admitting the wrongs we are accountable for is needed after our initial 4th and 5th Step is completed. Doing a little bit of spring cleaning is a great way to keep “our side of the street clean” so that when things like resentments, grudges, judgments, criticisms, jealousies and anger start stinking up our thinking, we have a way to cope. Continued sobriety requires “cleaning up” after yourself as you go along, with daily inventory, getting and staying honest, removing defects and making amends, to name a few.

The 12 Steps of AA has changed so much for alcoholics the world over. This spiritual program and other 12 Step fellowships practicing the same principles allow for a supportive group of peers all working toward the same goal- to launch a new and improved life of “vigorous action”. Sober.

SLOGANS

- ° DAY AT A TIME
- ° EASY DOES IT
- ° FIRST THINGS FIRST
- ° LET GO LET GOD
- ° LIVE AND LET LIVE
- ° KEEP AN OPEN MIND
- ° THINK, THINK, THINK
- ° COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
- ° HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?
- ° KEEP IT SIMPLE
- ° LISTEN AND LEARN
- ° BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD
- ° JUST FOR TODAY
- ° PRINCIPLES ABOVE PERSONALITIES
- ° PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION
- ° TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT



Founders' Day 2021

June 12 & 13 2021

Founders' Day 2021 will be a virtual event. Registration is required. There is no fee to register, although donations are greatly appreciated. An exciting lineup will be released soon. The Founders' Day Committee encourages you to check back for schedules and details.

go to:

foundersday.org

Akron Area Intergroup Council

All editions of the District 41 Messenger can be found on the District 41 website: dupage41aa.org

District 41 Messenger is published quarterly by District 41 of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is intended as a service letter to inform district members of service opportunities, events, and experiences relevant to carrying the AA message, in and through service. Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily express or reflect the thinking of Alcoholics Anonymous, District 41, or the editor. This newsletter is a confidential document. Please do not take it to jails, treatment centers, etc.

AA celebrates its origin--Founders' Day

Bill W.'s meeting with Dr. Bob is the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous

On May 11, 1935, Bill W. encountered a threat to his newfound sobriety. During a business trip to Ohio, he found himself standing in the lobby of a hotel, craving a drink. With growing anxiety he contemplated his options. Bill narrowed his choices to two: order a cocktail in the hotel bar or call another recovering alcoholic and ask for help in staying sober.

Bill passed the bar and found a church directory. Within minutes he was on the phone with a local minister. A series of calls put him in touch with an alcoholic surgeon named Dr. Bob. Bill arranged to visit the doctor at home.

Dr. Bob initially agreed to see Bill for only 15 minutes, but their meeting lasted for hours. Bill simply told of his drinking history and Bob identified with it immediately. Bill thanked Bob for hearing him out -- for his fellowship. "I know now that I'm not going to take another drink," Bill said, "and I'm grateful to you." But the relationship did not end there. Bill stayed with Dr. Bob for the next three weeks. Through their friendship, Dr. Bob also gained sobriety. The surgeon never took another drink after June 10, 1935. That day -- Dr. Bob's "dry date" -- is officially counted as the start of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bill and Bob began working with other alcoholics, helping them achieve sobriety one day at a time. Four years later, they published the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which explained their Twelve Step program of recovery. Articles about AA started appearing in the popular press, and the group's membership swelled.

AA is the first therapeutic social movement dealing with alcoholism that's outlived its founders and keeps expanding. AA's longevity stems from three factors:

One is that AA makes no stand on whether beverage alcohol is good or bad. Temperance movements and prohibition tried to label the product as being evil. AA does not.

A second thing is the spiritual approach. When seeking help, AA asks you to name your own higher power. And your higher power can be different than anyone else's.

Third, AA's founders laid out a unique plan. Though the organization includes delegates at state and district levels, the local groups remain autonomous. So AA is actually a corporation upside down, with all the authority coming from the bottom.

By combining this creative structure with individual freedom of interpretation, AA keeps growing. Because of the core principles of Twelve Step recovery, such as telling the truth, asking for help, and making amends, people keep discovering universal aspects of healing.

Source: The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

Page 6