

I Am Responsible
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hands of A.A. always to be there.
And for that I am responsible.

District21News

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Trusted Servants

District 21 D.C.M.

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The purpose of the newsletter is to aid in linking A.A. groups in District 21 together by providing a communication forum for sharing information and news. District 21 includes all A.A. groups in Geauga County, Kirtland, Gates Mills, Chagrin Falls, Solon, and Portage County north of I-80, which includes Aurora, Mantua, Hiram, Garrettsville and Nelson.

Contact Information

mail all inquiries to:

District 21 General Service
P.O. Box 173

Chardon, Ohio 44024

Email: district21@area54.org

Online Meeting Schedules

<http://area54.org/district21.html>



A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future;
to place our common welfare first;
to keep our fellowship united.

For on AA unity depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.

General Service? Oh Yeah, You Mean that Political Stuff!

There are some AA members who insist that General Service is politics. Politics can be defined as "competition between interest groups or individuals for power and leadership". It is usually exercised in closed-door sessions and represents the few trying to exercise their influence over the many. Politics are often characterized by dishonest practices.

The General Service Conference, however, has key elements built in that prevent politics from entering. As stated in 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.* One of the key practices of General Service is rotation. Every two years, or four years for a trustee, the trusted servants willingly pass the torch to the next AA member. Although a trusted servant may serve consecutively different positions in the district or Area, in time, all trusted servants will rotate out of office, only to serve as another member of the group conscience like every other member of AA is entitled.

Additionally, General Service meetings are open to all members of AA. All AA groups have the right to express their opinion and vote on all issues through their General Service Representative (GSR). These rights are defined and protected by AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service that outline the *right of participation*, the *right of decision* and the *right of appeal* of AA members. If your group does not have a GSR you are giving up your voice in AA affairs. If your GSR is not active in district or Area functions, and does not share information that is mailed to them from the General Service Officer or Area Assembly, you are an unformed group.

In the first edition of AA's Big Book, **Alcoholics Anonymous**, the story *The Artist's Concept* began:

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which can not fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation." --HERBERT SPENCER

THE above quotation is descriptive of the mental attitudes of many alcoholics when the subject of religion, as a cure, is first brought to their attention. It is only when a man has tried everything else, when in utter desperation and terrific need he turns to something bigger than himself, that he gets a glimpse of the way out. It is then that contempt is replaced by hope, and hope by fulfillment.

The above quote is also description of a few members trying to stop other members from participating in the decision making process that will shape the Alcoholics Anonymous of the future as it continues to evolve and grow. This type of attitude serves to stifle progress and representation.

Participation in the General Service Conference does not appeal to everyone, nor does everyone have the time and commitment necessary for General Service activities. It is my experience that participation in the Conference has enriched my sobriety and enhanced my life by offering more ways of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The Bulletin Board

Group Anniversaries • Announcements • Events

Please mail or email all announcements one month in advance

Claridon 322 Anniversary

Wednesday, April 12, 2006

Claridon Town Hall

13942 Mayfield Rd. (US 322), Claridon

Newbury Sunday 49th Anniversary

Sunday, April 23, 2006, 6:00 PM

St. Helens Catholic Church

12060 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 87), Newbury

Huntsburg 23rd Anniversary

Thursday, April 20, 2006, doors open 6:30 PM

Huntsburg Town Hall

16534 Mayfield (Rt. 322), Huntsburg

Burton Maple Leaf 46th Anniversary

Thursday, April 27, 2006, doors open 6:00 PM

Burton Congregational Church (red church)

14558 West Park, Burton

Mantua Fun Group Anniversary

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

St. Joseph Church

11045 St. Joseph Blvd., Mantua

78th Punderson Park Conference

May 12 - 14, 2006

Call (440) 346-0779 OR

Write: P.O. Box 570, Newbury, Ohio 44065

District 21 Meeting

Thursday, April 27, 2006 6:00 PM

Burton Congregational Church

14558 W. Park St, Burton

Group Contributions to District 21

Solon Crossroads \$175.00

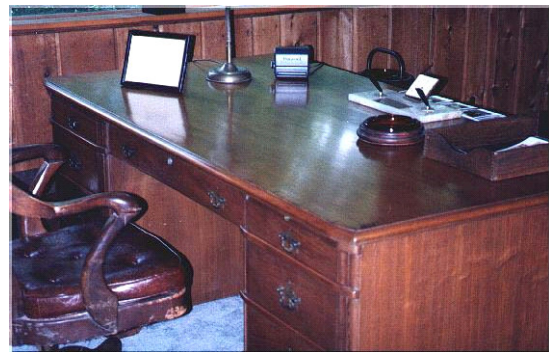
Solon Happy Hour \$50.00

Burton Responsible \$35.00

We are very appreciative of your support for services to the district. We were able to perform mailings in February and March.

Trivia

Did you know that AA's co-founder Bill W's home office was a small studio building about 50 feet behind his home in Bedford Hills, NY called Wit's End?



Bill's desk inside Wit's End. Bill did most of his Big Book writing on this desk in Hank P's office in New Jersey. Bill bought the desk from Hank and moved it with him to Bedford Hills.

At this desk he later wrote the books *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, as well as many other Grapevine articles and the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*. A photo of Bill seated at the desk can be found in the book *Pass It On*.