

BRIDGING THE GAP

Exactly What Is PIC and Bridging the Gap??

We all have mornings where we find it very hard to get our @\$ out of bed....but did you know there's a name for that? It's called dysania. Have you ever run around frantically cleaning before company comes over? Most of us have scurryfunded; we just didn't know it had a name. And if your boss says you fudgel really well, it's not a compliment! It just means you're very good at pretending to work when you're actually not doing anything at all.

Now, have you spent time with a newcomer, connecting them to meetings, orienting them and answering all the questions they may have about the BIG BOOK or the 12 Steps? Maybe you've visited a treatment center or a prison and told your story, letting them know Alcoholics Anonymous may have a solution for them? Possibly you've been a temporary contact for someone newly sober, meeting them at a meeting and helping them get a schedule and some phone numbers? Well, there's a name for that as well....it's called Bridging the Gap. Putting it simply, it's reaching out the hand of AA in an informative and helpful way. It is 12 step work as described in what some call the Responsibility Statement in the book Alcoholics Anonymous:

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible."

Bridging the Gap is a small part of the Public Information Committee (PIC). Similarly, PIC is a Sub-committee of the Fort Wayne Area Intergroup. Neither the PIC nor Bridging the Gap are anything new. The very first Public Information committee in A.A. was formed by the General Service Board in 1956. At that time, the following statement of "A.A.'s movement-wide public information policy" was written and approved by the General Service Conference:

"In all public relations, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity we believe this can be done by making known to him, and to those who may be interested in his problems, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism."

Any A.A. member who wishes to clearly understand the difference between 'promoting' A.A. and 'providing the public with information' about A.A., is encouraged to read the Alcoholic Anonymous's Public Information Handbook. When we readily reach out to the newcomer in an A.A. meeting, it is often likely that a treatment center, judge, doctor, teacher, pastor or counselor played a part in directing them to us. Who has carried the message to all of them?

The Public Information Committee, acting as a third party, can create the familiar image of a triangle.

- SIDE ONE- Members of Alcoholics Anonymous play their part in better informing the public through the PIC
- SIDE TWO- Those informed professionals reach the still suffering alcoholic, and...
- SIDE THREE- The suffering alcoholic becomes a member of A.A. who must carry the message in order to keep what he has been given.

Sharon D., a member of our PIC repeatedly states, "Every member of Alcoholics Anonymous is a member of this group whether they know it or not." Well, if you've read to the end of this article, you know it now! The only question is, "Are you active in this membership...or not?"

~Cathy M.



Prayers for Steps Seven and Eight

Seventh Step Prayer

"My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen."

Big Book Pg. 76

Eighth Step Prayer

"God, help me to become willing to sweep away the debris of self will and self-reliant living. God, Thy will be done for this person, as well as for me. Amen."

Carry the Message into Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility!

A new AA meeting will be starting at the prison and AA members are needed to chair/support the group!

Contact Intergroup Office for info

"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics"

~A.A. Big Book pg. 89

New Beginnings...Steps 7&8

Step 7

Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

Through my personal experience with step 7 I am reminded of my past experiences in the program with the steps. I seemed to have created more difficulties for myself based on self. Having become entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character in step 6, then going into step 7, I focused strictly on God removing them ASAP. I forgot one thing- The first word in this step, "Humbly". Now I understand this significant word. Studying step 7 in the 12&12, I began to learn it as it is written in the 12&12: "Attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle as each of AA's 12 steps". I like one of the definitions from the 12&12 best, "the basic ingredient of all humility is a desire to seek and do Gods will" simple and not easy for me to complicate.

Before I began to learn what humility was I wasn't a very happy person and unable to be of service to anyone else. Only through learning the meaning of humility was I able to truly ask God to remove my shortcomings.

Step 8

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

This is a personal relations step. I often think of a powerful sentence in the 12&12: "Since defective relations with other human beings have nearly always been the immediate cause of our woes, including our alcoholism."

I learned I had to search through the years as far as memory will allow, studying which personality traits within me injured others.

Through doing this I was able to make a list of people I had harmed. I had to remember this was a "write on paper step" and "willingness step".

The last sentence in the 12&12 on step 8 sums it all up for me and always gives me hope: "Step 8 is the beginning of the end of isolation from our fellows and from God."

~Anonymous

Annual Fall Festival is October 7th at Franke Park Pavillion #1.

Mark your calendars. All Fort Wayne area family and friends are invited.

Please bring a covered dish. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served by our grill masters.

Come and enjoy food, children's game/festivities and listen to a dynamic speaker, Brent W.

The Amethyst Statement of Purpose: The Amethyst is published every two months for members of the A.A. community in the Fort Wayne area. The Amethyst is financially supported by contributions to Fort Wayne Area Intergroup. The purpose of The Amethyst is to share information and experience in recovery, unity and service within the Fort Wayne area. The articles published in The Amethyst are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either Fort Wayne Area Intergroup, Inc. or A.A. as a whole.



MAN CAVE

“It takes more courage to reveal insecurities than to hide them, more strength to relate to people than to dominate them, more "manhood" to abide by thought-out principles rather than blind reflex. Toughness is in the soul and spirit, not in muscles and an immature mind.”

~Alex Karras Hall of Fame Football player

Triple crown race winners:

Kentucky Derby---- Jim C. Jim's a hat man so The Derby was right for him.

Preakness----Eli W. Eli heard the track was muddy and got down and dirty on the picks.

Belmont Stakes----Joe K. Joe thought it was "Steaks" and grilled the field with his picks.

Overall winner---- Joe K. who was the only contestant to pick all three of the top finishers in any race. Even though Joe's picks did not finish in the order submitted, his Belmont score got him to the top of the Triple.

~Bill H

Fort Wayne Area Intergroup Website Update

In a rapidly changing time, we must prepare for the future!

Statistics show that the majority of websites are accessed by mobile devices.

Growing technology requires that our outreach and ability also be upgraded.

Having a list of meetings at your fingertips, and step by step directions makes sense.

Looking to the future, the Fort Wayne Area Intergroup has agreed with a proposal to take the next step and create an entirely new website with many new features.

The original site features will still be standard in the new site, however the *Find A Meeting* tools that will allow a phone/tablet with GPS enabled to search for the meeting closest to you.

Along with covering the Fort Wayne area, the list of meetings will extend into the additional-*Vicinity/Where & When*. The goal is to create a quick and easy way to find a meeting not only for Fort Wayne residents, but visitors to the area as well.

With links to each days *Daily Reflections* reading, and current events calendar, the new site will create a new and fresh look to the area AA representation.

~Justin H.

Events & Notes

New Meetings:

Guided 11th Step Meditation

Tuesdays 6-7 P.M.

Club Oasis
1118 Spring St.
Fort Wayne, IN

The Al-anon- Welcoming Change Group of Kendallville

Fridays 8-9 P.M.

Club Recovery
110 Dowling St.
Kendallville, IN

July 21, 2018

Picnic in the Park

Havenhurst Park
New Haven, IN
Eat at noon- Speaker at 1:00 P.M.
Meat and drinks provided. Please bring a dish to share.

August 11, 2018

Road to Recovery Second Annual Golf Outing

Noble hawk Golf Course
Kendallville, IN
Contact Person: Justin C.
Register your team at- www.road2recoveryinc.org

August 18, 2018

The 13th Step House 50th Anniversary

1317 W. Washington Blvd.
Fort Wayne, In
10 A.M.-12 P.M. Speaker Wyatt M. at 11
Celebration then moving to VFW Hall Post 857 at
2202 W. Main St.

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Anniversaries

July

Joe 7/1/17
Martin S. 7/1/07
Don C. 7/3/85
Jeff B. 7/3/79
C.J. B. 7/4/17
Rebecca S. 7/4/05
Eric M. 7/8/16

July

Austin F. 7/9/17
Fred F. 7/11/07
George B. 7/11/11
Dave E. 7/14/93
Stephen C. 7/21/08
Dale J. 7/22/07
Matt S. 7/23/09

July

Rick B. 7/23/14
Spook A. 7/23/82
Gene D. 7/27/09
Janean H. 7/28/14
Lora M. 7/30/16
Carlos C. 7/31/17

August

Carlos W. 8/3/03
John B. 8/4/84
Marie J. 8/4/02
Stu H. 8/8/08
Ben L 8/14/17
Al C. 8/15/07
John B. 8/20/17

August

Bob S. 8/23/90
Don Y. 8/24/04
Annetta K. 8/25/85
Elissa M. 8/25/17
Pete C. 8/27/95
Josh S. 8/28/17
Kevin D. 8/28/92

The Amethyst

SUBMISSIONS: The Amethyst welcomes feature articles, supporting articles, group histories, anniversaries, jokes, cartoons and upcoming events as long as they relate to A.A. experience and reflect an awareness of A.A.'s singleness of purpose. Submissions are reviewed by The Amethyst committee and recommended to the editor for publication.

Length of submission: The Amethyst will publish work of different lengths, from feature articles to one-liners.

Send submissions to:

editor.amethyst@gmail.com or:

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