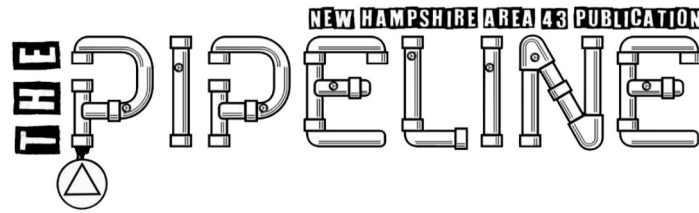


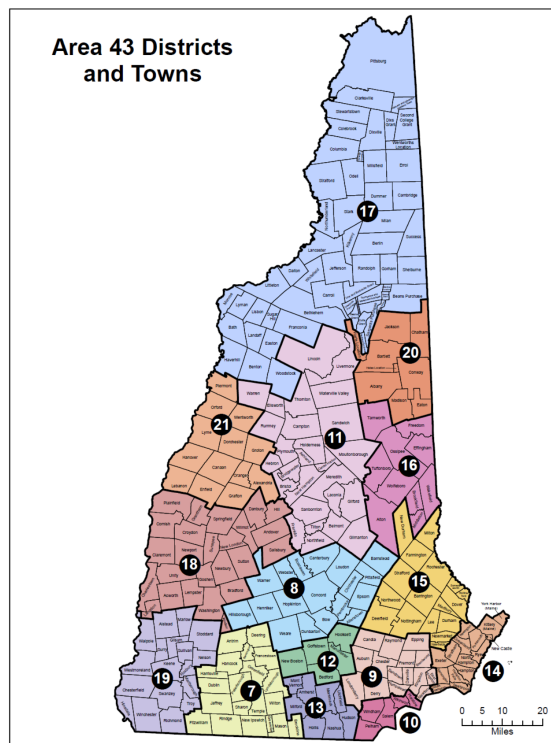


[View this email in your browser](#)



December 2023

Christmas Edition



Feliz Navidad!

much renewed hope and joy. Wishing you all happy, healthy and sober New Year.

Speaking of the New year. I have received the most amazing privilege and honor of being elected your Alternate Delegate. Which means we will be in search of a new Pipeline chair. Being able to carry the message with the pipeline has been a very rewarding journey. So please if anyone is interested or had any questions about the position just reach out to me.

With the most profound love and affection,



Justin R
Pipeline Chair
Area 43
413-854-3972



Step 12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Tradition 12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.



Christmas Past, Christmas Present

An AA who relapsed compares that year's holiday with this one. The Christmas before last was the worst. Four years ago, I gave up 13 years of sobriety to drink and abuse pain medication. For my decision to drink again I was rewarded with a divorce and a business deal that went sour. I had been warned that all the bad things that hadn't happened to me yet would if I went back to drinking but somehow I chose to ignore that advice. Who was I to think that the rules of alcoholic drinking did not apply to me?

Thirty years ago when I went to my first AA meeting a few of the old timers said "kid I spilled more booze on my tie than you drank." Many more said, "alcoholism was like an elevator and you could get off before it went to the bottom floor." Of course I decided to listen to the minority and after a year of sobriety and my life getting better I drank for another 10 years. I figured I hadn't lost a wife, a job, or thousands of dollars and most importantly I couldn't drink a fifth a day which seemed to be the minimum for a true alcoholic. Never mind that I wasn't married or employed and I had always been broke. The capacity for alcohol would increase, it is one of the rules of alcoholic drinking.

years later, I had been divorced and lost a job and blown lots of money on booze and had all the accidents that go with it. I was depressed and miserable and I realized that the only time I had been happy was as a member of AA. That was the place I learned how to be a decent human being so I came back. I was lucky to find a sponsor who would put up with me. I questioned everything and told him that I hated meetings and for a time quit attending them but somehow I stayed sober and managed to not get fired by him. I read the literature and became very active with my home group and my life improved in every way. Financially, I had a thriving business and a beautiful home. I had been spared from many painful experiences. Then after 12 years of sobriety, I became disenchanted with the discussion meetings that I had been attending, but instead of looking for other meetings, I stopped going. My employment caused me to see many AA members who did not appear to be practicing the 12 Steps in all their affairs. I couldn't believe that they would be worse off drinking. I called other AA members hypocrites, but I who had gained so much from a Program I was now denouncing was the biggest hypocrite of all. I had graduated and it wasn't with a degree of humility.

When I drank again I only had two glasses of wine and I didn't turn into a pumpkin so I thought I must have licked this thing that was more psychological than physical. For a month I would have one or two beers and laugh that I couldn't drink more because I got sleepy. I hate to admit it but I was thinking about being the first guy to comeback and stand up at a meeting to announce that I found a way to drink successfully.

Since this is a story about Christmas I will skip the drunk-a-log and get right to the worst yuletide I have experienced. I went from two glasses of wine to three bottles and five or six pain pills. My wife divorced me and so did many of my friends. I was unable to sleep through the night. I would wake from my stupor feeling sick and would drink medicinally to get a couple of hours sleep. I didn't view that as a morning drink until I had been sober a few months. All of the things my Higher Power spared me from the first two times now were beating me into submission because of my self-will.

meetings. I could not understand some one who would drink and read the Big Book and now it was happening to me. Now I was desperate to stop drinking but I couldn't get what had come so easily to me before. I went to meetings and felt they weren't for me and I couldn't stop drinking. I cannot imagine a deeper sense of loneliness and hopelessness than knowing you are an alcoholic and that AA is the only solution for you and yet not connecting with meetings and the program. Suicide was looking like the only way out.

I believe my Higher Power was protecting me because I didn't get a DUI and I didn't physically harm any one but he was also teaching me about the desperation that I had not known before. I needed the education so that this time I would cling to the program like a drowning man would a life preserver.

Today I keep the focus on me. I acknowledge that we all have frailties and the only chance we have to overcome them is by staying sober. If a meeting doesn't appeal to me I search out ones that do. When I was drinking if I didn't like a bar I didn't quit drinking I simply found one that I enjoyed. Now I look for discussion meetings that strictly follow the Steps and speaker meetings so I get to know someone's whole story. I look forward to attending my regular meetings and I plan my life around them. Pain and progress have led me to love the program and Fellowship that I hated.

I celebrated Christmas sober for the first time in four years. I had time and energy to visit elderly friends. I felt love for the first time and began to feel worthy of it. I came to realize that many hurt feelings and anger were the result of my not feeling that I could be loved. My wife and I hosted a Christmas party and our home was filled with friends and there was no sickness or remorse the next day. We went to plays and celebrations and yet I had plenty of time to attend meetings.

I believe my higher power gave me two chances to join AA with less suffering but I refused the opportunities. The good news is that I made it back and have a new enthusiasm for the program and meetings. This year I look forward to celebrating another sober

the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

—Anonymous, Toledo, Ohio from the Grapevine



Step Twelve

Grapevine 1974

By Alex M. Louisville, KY

Seeking a way to stay in the present moment, rather than lamenting yesterday and fearing tomorrow, he discovers Step Twelve
When I finished my Step work, I knew something was different, but I wasn't sure if it was a spiritual awakening. But I did know I had acquired a different way of thinking and acting which I had never before experienced. This definitely constituted an awakening of some kind.

Why this happened was unimportant to me—perhaps God, perhaps the Fellowship. Regardless, I knew I had to have help to overcome my alcoholic illness; self-reliance was insufficient. After completing the Steps, carrying the message of the principles of the Steps to others is not very hard. As a matter of fact, it's so natural, I can easily fall into to two-stepping. I don't drink for Step 1 and share the message from Step 12. I go to meetings, have a few sponsees, say some prayers, practice the smug AA grin and let everyone know in sneaky ways how great I am so I'll get your approval.

This is a dangerous place for me, because I'll drink eventually when I don't feel the love and admiration I secretly and desperately need from you.

Today, I seek an emotional sobriety that is less dependent on how you respond to me. My focus is on how can I reduce my character defects. How can I become more honest, more tolerant, less judgmental, more patient, less stingy, more empathic and more willing to listen to others' views? How can I improve my relationships with those I love, and those I don't? What can I bring to the party of

in the present moment, rather than lamenting yesterday and tearing tomorrow? What can I do for AA today?

Many days, I am far from the emotional sobriety I seek. I drown in my emotional instincts of ambition, pride, and the need for security. I often say I don't care what others think, but down deep I do. I say power, money, big cars and fancy houses don't define the man, but they define something. I say I'm not self-centered and ego driven, but this is a lie. I say I am fearless and willing, but never, ever leave the security of my comfort zone. I still do exactly what I want and no more.

Step 12 centers my sobriety. It directs me back to my G-P-S toolbox of Gratitude-Prayer-Service and the power in the first eleven Steps. I can now exercise my choice to change. When I actually change, rather than just promising to change, my life becomes much more peaceful and rewarding. It is at this point that I have something honest and worth passing on to others. And I'll stay content in my own skin and won't be thinking about drinking to change the way I feel.



Tradition Twelve

November 1948 Grapevine

By Bill W.

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

One may say that anonymity is the spiritual base, the sure key to all the rest of our Traditions. It has come to stand for prudence and, most importantly, for self-effacement. True consideration for the newcomer if he desires to be nameless; vital protection against misuse of the name Alcoholics Anonymous at the public level; and to each of us a constant reminder that principles come before personal interest--such is the wide scope of this all-embracing principle. In it

spiritual level it points us to still greater self-renunciation.

A glance at the Twelve Traditions will instantly assure anyone that "giving up" is the essential idea of them all. In each Tradition, the individual or the group is asked to give up something for our general welfare. Tradition One asks us to place the common good ahead of personal desire. Tradition Two asks us to listen to God as he may speak in the group conscience. Tradition Three requires that we exclude no alcoholic from AA membership. Tradition Four implies that we abandon all idea of centralized human authority or government. But each group is enjoined to consult widely in matters affecting us all. Tradition Five restricts the AA group to a single purpose, carrying our message to other alcoholics.

Tradition Six points at the corroding influence of money, property, and personal authority; it begs that we keep these influences at a minimum by separate incorporation and management of our special services. It also warns against the natural temptation to make alliances or give endorsements. Tradition Seven states that we had best pay our own bills; that large contributions or those carrying obligations ought not be received; that public solicitation using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is positively dangerous. Tradition Eight forswears professionalizing our Twelfth Step work but it does guarantee our few paid service workers an unquestioned amateur status. Tradition Nine asks that we give up all idea of expensive organization; enough is needed to permit effective work by our special services--and no more. This Tradition breathes democracy; our leadership is one of service and it is rotating; our few titles never clothe their holders with arbitrary personal authority; they hold authorizations to serve, never to govern. Tradition Ten is an emphatic restraint of serious controversy; it implores each of us to take care against committing AA to the fires of reform, political or religious dissension. Tradition Eleven asks, in our public relations, that we be alert against sensationalism and it declares there is never need to praise ourselves. Personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film is urgently required, thus avoiding the pitfall of vanity, and the temptation through broken anonymity to link AA to other causes.

comprehends the preceding eleven. The Twelve Points of Tradition are little else than a specific application of the spirit of the Twelve Steps of recovery to our group life and to our relations with society in general. The recovery Steps would make each individual AA whole and one with God; the Twelve Points of Tradition would make us one with each other and whole with the world about us. Unity is our aim.

Our AA Traditions are, we trust, securely anchored in those wise precepts: charity, gratitude, and humility. Nor have we forgotten prudence. May these virtues ever stand clear before us in our meditations; may Alcoholics Anonymous serve God in happy unison for so long as he may need us.



Drawing from a Drunk



~ Art by Rose



Book of the Month



Take Me to Your Sponsor

Best Jokes & Cartoons from AA Grapevine is a collection of the funniest and most insightful humor from the pages of Grapevine magazine, the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Whether you are dealing with meetings, sponsorship, dating and marriage, friends and coworkers, character defects, or any other aspect of sobriety, this book will make you laugh and remind you that you are not alone. Drawn by AA members, these clever and amusing black-and-white cartoons will brighten your day and give you some hearty, well-earned chuckles. This book is a great gift for anyone who appreciates the lighter side of recovery.



ARCHIVIST ALLEY

By Bill W.

***In Remembrance of Ebby
- from the June 1966 Grapevine***

In his seventieth year, and on the twenty-first of March, my friend and sponsor Ebby passed beyond our sight and hearing.

On a chill November afternoon in 1934 it was Ebby who had brought me the message that saved my life. Still more importantly, he was the bearer of the grace and of the principles that shortly afterward led to my spiritual awakening. This was truly a call to new life in the spirit. It was the kind of rebirth that has since become the most precious possession of each and all of us.

As I looked upon him where he lay in perfect repose, I was stirred by poignant memories of all the years I had known and loved him. There were recollections of those joyous days in a Vermont boarding school. After the war years we were sometimes together, then drinking of course. Alcohol, we thought, was the solvent for all difficulties, a veritable elixir for good living.

Then there was that absurd episode of 1929. Ebby and I were on an all-night spree in Albany. Suddenly we remembered that a new airfield had been constructed in Vermont, on a pasture near my own home town. The opening day was close at hand. Then came the intoxicating thought: If only we could hire a plane we'd beat the opening by several days, thus making aviation history ourselves! Forthwith, Ebby routed a pilot friend out of bed, and for a stiff price we engaged him and his small craft. We sent the town fathers a wire announcing the time of our arrival. In mid-morning, we took to the air, greatly elated--and very tight.



Somehow our rather tipsy pilot set us down on the field. A large crowd, including the village band and a welcoming committee, lustily cheered his feat. The pilot then deplaned. But nothing else happened, nothing at all. The onlookers stood in puzzled silence. Where were Ebby and Bill? Then the horrible discovery was made-- we were both slumped in the rear cockpit of the plane, completely passed out! Kind friends lifted us down and stood us upon the ground. Whereupon we history-makers fell flat on our faces. Ignominiously, we had to be carted away. The fiasco could not have been more appalling. We spent the next day shakily writing apologies.

Over the following five years, I seldom saw Ebby. But of course our drinking went on and on. In late 1934 I got a terrific jolt when I learned that Ebby was about to be locked up, this time in a state mental hospital.

Following a series of mad sprees, he had run his father's new Packard off the road and into the side of a dwelling, smashing right into its kitchen, and just missing a terrified housewife. Thinking to ease this rather awkward situation, Ebby summoned his brightest smile and said, "Well, my dear, how about a cup of coffee?"

concerned. Their patience worn thin, the town fathers yanked him into court. To all appearances, Ebby's final destination was the insane asylum. To me, this marked the end of the line for us both. Only a short time before, my physician, Dr. Silkworth, had felt obliged to tell Lois there was no hope of my recovery; that I, too, would have to be confined, else risk insanity or death.



But Providence would have it otherwise. It was presently learned that Ebby had been paroled into the custody of friends who (for the time being) had achieved their sobriety in the Oxford Groups. They brought Ebby to New York where he fell under the benign influence of AA's great friend-to-be, Dr. Sam Shoemaker, the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. Much affected by Sam and the "O.G.," Ebby promptly sobered up. Hearing of my serious condition, he had straightaway come to our house in Brooklyn.

As I continued to recollect, the vision of Ebby looking at me across our kitchen table became wonderfully vivid. As most AAs know, he spoke to me of the release from hopelessness that had come to him (through the Oxford Groups) as the result of self-survey, restitution,

proposing the attitudes and principles that I used later in developing AA's Twelve Steps to recovery.

It had happened. One alcoholic had effectively carried the message to another. Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God.



What's Happening?

THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
combined with
TWELVE CONCEPTS
FOR WORLD SERVICE
by Bill W.

Weekly
A.A. Service Manual Study
Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm EST
Begins September 7, 2023

Zoom ID: 978 5884 5621
Passcode: service
Attendance limit 100

Hosted by: NHAA / Area 43
Questions? graceflesher@gmail.com

2021-2023 Edition
REVISED AND UPDATED

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

SATURDAYS
10PM-11:15

Derry Friendship Center
6 Railroad Ave Derry, NH 03038

New Hampshire's Only 10 Pm meeting



SAVE THE DATE

57TH ANNUAL NHAA CONVENTION

March 22 - 24, 2024

North Conway, NH

WANT THE CHANCE TO WIN A CONVENTION FOR 2?

SCAN THE CODE BELOW FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN!

SCAN HERE



*Prize includes 1 hotel room
for 2 nights, 2 registrations,
and meals for 2 -
over a \$500 value.*

1 FOR \$5
5 FOR \$20

DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT
THE AREA 43 MONTHLY BUSINESS
MEETING ON DECEMBER 17.





NECYPAA XXXIII

The Great Paradox

JANUARY 5TH-7TH IN DANVERS, MA

What is NECYPAA?

The New England Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (NECYPAA) was founded in 1989 as an annual celebration of sobriety of young people in Alcoholics Anonymous.

This Conference provides an opportunity for young AA members from all over to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope as members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

What Can I Expect?

The conference will offer three days of meetings, panels, workshops, main speakers, activities, games, fellowship, service opportunities and much more! You can expect to meet hundreds of other YPAA members from all over the region and the country coming together to celebrate their sobriety.

Who Can Attend?

While this Conference is geared primarily toward young people, persons of all ages in Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome. The conference is also open to the general public. We ask that non-alcoholics who attend respect the anonymity of all AA members who are in attendance.

Please reach out to NECYPAA33@gmail.com with any questions!

pre-register for the conference at necypaahost.org

District 13 - AA

New Year's Eve An Elegant Affair

6:30-10:00pm
Lawrence Barn
28 Depot Rd., Hollis, NH

Smart casual to elegant attire

28 Depot Rd., Hollis, NH

Food & Fellowship - 6:30-7:00
Speakers - 7:30-8:30
Dancing & Cheer - 8:30-10:00

Let's usher in

2024

with style



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S ALCATHONS

Hosted by District 14 Functions Committee

Join us for meetings, food, and fellowship.

Kittery Lions Club
117 State Road
Kittery, Maine

Sunday, 12/24 ~ Christmas Eve 6 pm to 11 pm

Monday, 12/25 ~ Christmas Day 7 am to 8 pm

Fellowship and Breakfast 8-9 am (no meeting at 8 am)

Sunday, 12/31 ~ New Year's Eve 6 pm to 1 am

Meetings 6 pm to 9 pm

Dance 9 pm to 1 am

Monday, 1/1/24 ~ New Year's Day 7 am to 8 pm

The group schedules are on seacoastaa.org. Email functions@seacoastaa.org if you want to volunteer!

***Bring a dish to
share if you wish!***



District 7, December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve Alcathon

6:00pm – 10:00pm

Come One. Come All!

At the Monadnock Community Hospital

Conference Room 5

On the left side of the Emergency Room

452 Old Street Rd

Peterborough, NH

A new meeting each hour

District 8 invites you to
2024
New Year's Eve

DINNER, DANCING & FELLOWSHIP
Christ the King Parish Church
72 S Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

DECEMBER 31, 2023
6PM TO 10PM
\$10 SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION

SPEAKER MEETING 8 PM
Brew from Peterborough

50/50 RAFFLE

ONLY RECOVER RECOVERY



District 20 Presents

New Year's Eve Alcathon

Sunday, December 31st
Gibson Center, 14 Grove St. N. Conway

4:00-5:00 Meeting

5:00-5:30 Pizza

5:30-9:30 Meetings

9:30 FIREWORKS!!!!

11:00PM AA TRIVIA and countdown to 2024!

Help us welcome the new year with
Fellowship and laughter.



Get ready for a wonderful

Christmas Aleathon

Celebrate with friends, meetings, and food.

Bring a dish or dessert to share.

Everyone is welcome!

December 25, 2023, 8am to 8pm

18 Veterans Square Laconia, NH 03246





NH AA District 18 Presents Christmas Day Alcathon



Sober bells, sober bells, it's Christmas time
down at Millie's



Monday December 25th 2023
Millie's Place
45 John Stark Hwy, Newport NH 03773
Doors open from 8:00am until 8:00PM

AA Meetings: (All Day!)



8:30am - 9:30am
10:00am - 11:00am
11:30am - 12:30pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm
2:30pm - 3:30pm
4:00pm - 5:00pm
5:30pm - 6:30pm
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Newport Eye-Opener Group
Shining the Light Group
Rant and Rave Group
NL Tues Nite Original Group
Look It Up Group
Claremont Wed 12 & 12
Potter's Place
Millie's As Bill Sees It Group



Come Celebrate!

Potluck all day long
Bring a dish or dessert to share!
Friends, Family, Fellowship and Good Cheer!



DISTRICT 8
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS
ALCATHON

25TH
DEC

MEETINGS ON THE HOUR
7 AM TO 7 PM

CONCORDIA LUCERAN CHURCH
211 N. MAIN ST., CONCORD, NH

Potluck! Bring a dish to share

Questions? Contact Valorie 703-338-2516

DISTRICT 9 ALCATHON

December 24th, 6 PM to December 25th, 6 PM

24 hours of meetings, fellowship, and food!

Join us to Celebrate Christmas.

We would Love to

See You!

*Merry
Christmas*

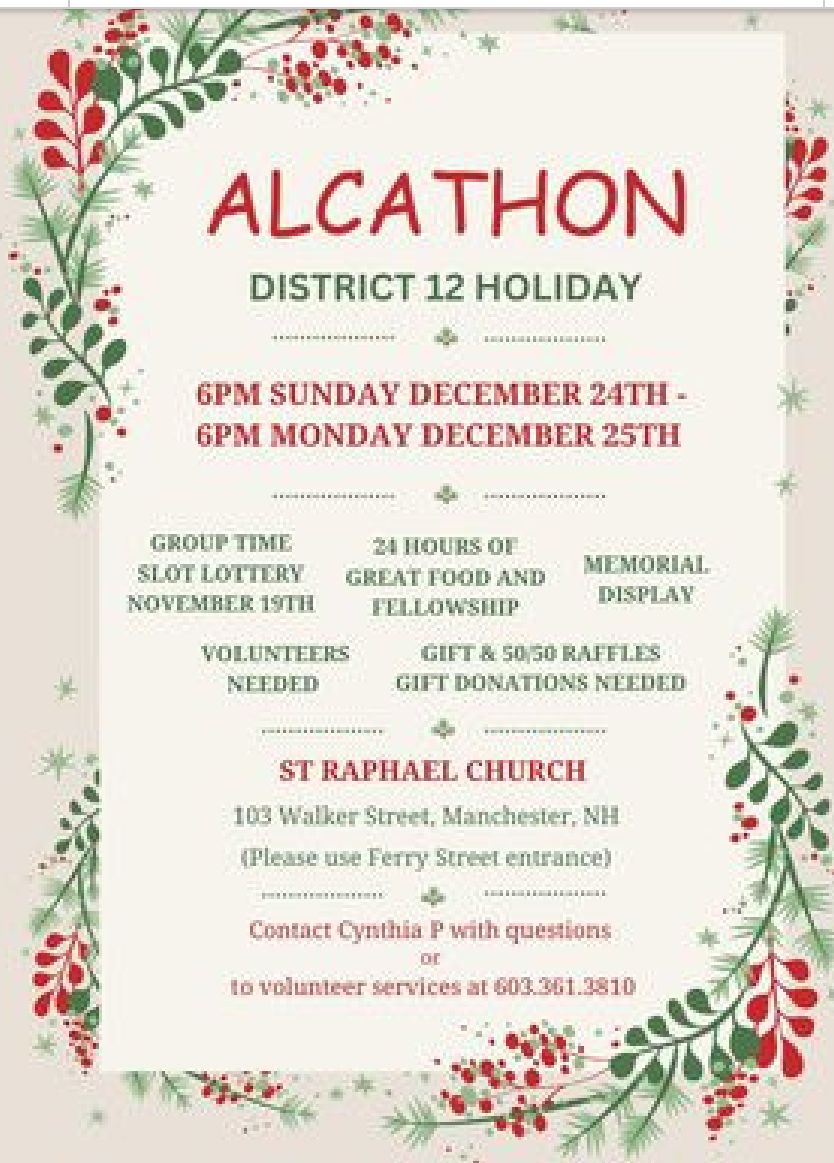


We love lots
of crock pots



Derry Parking

Derry Friendship Center
6 Railroad Ave.
Derry, NH 03038



ALCATHON

DISTRICT 12 HOLIDAY

..... ❄️

**6PM SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH -
6PM MONDAY DECEMBER 25TH**

..... ❄️

GROUP TIME SLOT LOTTERY NOVEMBER 19TH	24 HOURS OF GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP	MEMORIAL DISPLAY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	GIFT & 50/50 RAFFLES GIFT DONATIONS NEEDED	

..... ❄️

ST RAPHAEL CHURCH
103 Walker Street, Manchester, NH
(Please use Ferry Street entrance)

..... ❄️

Contact Cynthia P with questions
or
to volunteer services at 603.361.3810



District 7 December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Alcathon

Come One, Come AA

6:00pm-10:00pm

At the Monadnock Community Hospital

452 Old Street Rd,

Conference Room 5,

Peterborough, NH

A new meeting every hour



38TH ANNUAL ALKATHON 2023 DISTRICT 13

*Hudson Community Center
12 Lions Ave, Hudson N.H
Chair: Dean 603-321-6641
Co-Chair: Michelle C. 603-566-2731
Gift Table Coordinator: Stephanie 603-682-7111
Food Coordinator: Erin 781-249-0996*

*Continuous Fellowship and AA Meetings
Starting Sunday December 24th at Noon
Thru December 25th, Ending at 9:00 p.m.*

*Food Drop Off at Lions Hall on Christmas Eve
Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please*

*Christmas Eve
Opening Ceremony and Lunch Start at Noon
Lighting of the Candle
First Meeting Starts at 12:30
Oldtimers Speak from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Morning
Last group will speak 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Open Fellowship Meeting until 5:00 a.m.*

*Christmas Day
Breakfast 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Raffle Ticket Table Closes at 7:30 p.m.
Raffle at 7:30 p.m.
Clean up and be out by 10:00 p.m.*



Holiday Alcathon

Journey Church 15 Hutchins Dr. Conway

Sunday, December 24th
7:30pm-9:00pm Firepit Meeting
Hot cocoa tailgating in parking lot before meeting. (Sorry, no coffee tonight)

Monday, December 25th
Come on over for some great holiday fellowship
Food, Coffee and beverages throughout the day

Host Groups:

- 7:30-8:30am - Eye Opener Group
- 9:00-10:00am - Firepit Group
- 10:30-11:30am - Woman's Journey Beginners
- 12:00-1:00pm - New Sunlight Group
- 1:30-2:30pm - Monday Night BB Group
- 3:00-4:00pm - Wednesday Night Group
- 4:30-5:30pm - Beth S. & Co. 

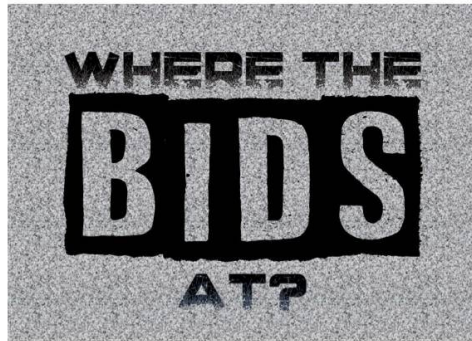
Please note that the Eye Opener and the Sunlight Group will not be meeting at their regular locations on Christmas Day!

NHSCYPAA BIDS WANTED!

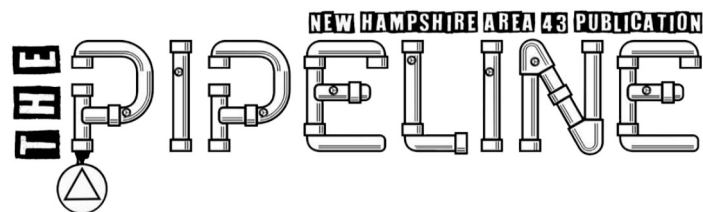
WE NEED YOUNG PEOPLE
GROUPS TO PUT IN A BID
FOR THE UPCOMING
NHSCYPAA!

ADVISORY IS HERE TO
HELP GET YOU STARTED!

Contact Britt C. @ 603-247-9919 for more information!



IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PERSON OR BELONG TO A YOUNG PERSON'S MEETING AND WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT STARTING A NHSCYPAA BID COMMITTEE, ADVISORY WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND HELP YOU! PLEASE CONTACT BRITTANIE AT 603-247-9919.



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