



MARCH / APRIL 2022

THE MESSAGE

Service Work in Sobriety

Step 3 - "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him."

Life on the Other Side of the Pink Can

You wouldn't know it unless I told you, but 15 years ago I went to prison because I got into a drunken fist fight. I served a short stint. After release, it took me several years of drinking to realize I'm truly an alcoholic and I couldn't quit on my own and I was probably going back to prison if I couldn't get my life together.

After several unhappy years, I finally hit a sufficient bottom that brought me to Alcoholics Anonymous. I got a sponsor and worked the 12 steps and had a spiritual awakening in the process.

Realizing I needed to enlarge my spiritual life it was suggested I continue to be of service. Five years ago, my home group needed the Corrections position filled and with some guidance from experienced Corrections volunteers, I agreed.

I started volunteering in both the jails and prisons. I can't deny that I had some "contempt prior to investigation" in what to expect, because in my prison experience I didn't have AA or other rehabilitation programs that focused on bettering my life upon release.

The experience I've received from volunteering in Corrections has been so helpful. There are these guys in a hostile environment, stuck here for years, some of them life with no chance of parole and some of these lifers are freer than some of the people in my home group, and they're happier - freer than people that have

everything you could possibly want in life. They are free and they are happy because of an internal rearrangement that has nothing to do with their external environment.

Going to these meetings has really helped me get out of myself and realize that my problems are trivial compared to these guys daily reality and my past life.

It has really shown me that happiness is nice, but real joy comes from within and changed my sobriety, bringing me closer to my Higher Power.

There's a guy that's now on work release who has an honest desire to go to meetings as soon as he gets out. He's set up to go to a halfway house and get connected with AA upon his release. He's spent 35 years of his life incarcerated and he realizes that it was because of his alcoholism.

I don't know if he'll stay sober upon release, but I know that "I am responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I'm responsible."

*Nate M.
Tallahassee*



**Service Rep
Does Your
Group
Have One?**

Service Rep's are welcome at the Intergroup5 monthly meeting - 1st Wednesday every month. Check intergroup5.org website for meeting details.

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.

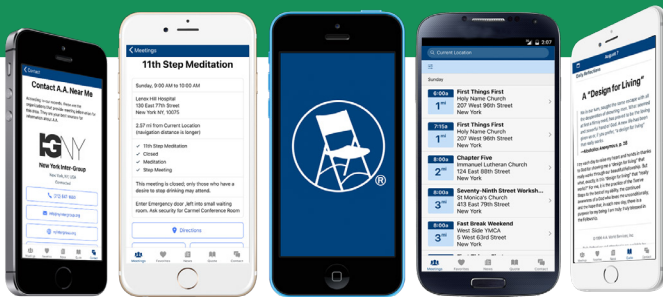


... “Therefore, we started upon a personal inventory. *This was Step Four*”...



Get Your Own Personal “Where & When”

Download the Meeting Guide App! Intergroup5 has integrated our information with the Meeting Guide App. You can find a link for both Google Play and The Apple Store on the meetings page of Intergroup5.org (<https://intergroup5.org/meetings>). The Meeting Guide can help you find meetings for many areas, including online meeting info.



When we join a 12 step program, where no one has a last name. We’re often given a “handle” that becomes our claim to fame. So meet some of our new fellows, with “tongue in cheek” good fun. Because when we can laugh with each other, Recovery has begun!

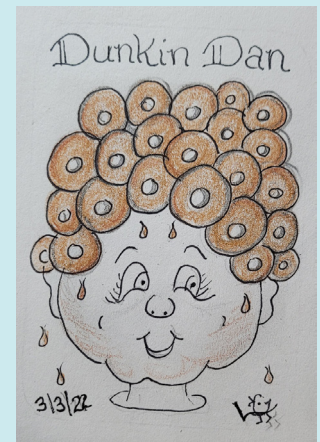


Hairlette is a hairstylist who used to have many hair raising experiences before she found the rooms. Now the only experimenting she does today is with creating new hair-styles

Intergroup5.org



The “Primary Purpose” of Intergroup 5 is to assist AA groups in District 5 to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. These functions are: (1) Providing a 24 hour “Hotline” service; (2) Making available [free pamphlets \(to individuals and groups\) and AA literature for purchase](#); (3) Maintaining a website that provides information on meetings, events, etc. related to AA; and (4) Publishing a newsletter for groups in the AA community. Please submit an article for this newsletter at [intergroup5.org](mailto:message@intergroup5.org) - Editor: message@intergroup5.org



Dunkin Dan has been in charge of getting the donuts for the Sunday Morning Donut Meeting for so long he no longer perspires, he just sweats glaze.