

Save The Date!

District Events

December 25th

Christmas Luncheon

American Legion, Sequim

Go to district55aa.com for flyer/details

December 31st to January 1st

New Years Eve Alcathon

American Legion, Sequim

Go to district55aa.com for flyer/details

Area Events

January 4th and 5th

Area 72 Quarterly

SeaTac, WA

Go to <https://area72aa.org/event/> for details.

GRAPEVINE BOOKS

To order call Beth V.; District 55 literature chair: 360 477-9879. 11.50\$

One On One : *Sponsorship in Action*

In Our Own Words: *Stories of Young AAs in Recovery*

AA Around the World: *A World Wide collection of stories from the Grapevine*

AA in Prison: *Inmate to Inmate*

I Am Responsible: *The Hand of AA*

Thank You For Sharing: *Sixty Years of Letters to the Grapevine*

The Home Group: *Heartbeat of AA*

Young & Sober: *Stories From The Grapevine*

Voices of Long Term Sobriety: *Old-Timers Stories*

Happy, Joyous & Free: *The Lighter Side of Sobriety*

New District Officers:

DCM: Dana Conklin

Alternate DCM: open

Secretary: Kyle Jay

Alternate Secretary: open

Treasurer: Conrad Eaton

Alternate Treasurer: Steve Siegle

New Committee Chairs:

Accessibility: Andrea Sivertsen

Answering Service/Schedules: open

Archives: Steve Segle

Activities: Alex Zbaraschuk

Corrections: Dave Cason

Literature: Position Open

Newsletter: Megan VanDusen

Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Open

Treatment: Kim Washburn

Website: Paul Pacelli

Do you have AA related news that should be published next quarter? Please e-mail articles to dist.55.news@gmail.com

District 55 Newsletter

4th Quarter 2018

district55aa.com

Season's Greetings and Salutations

To all my fellow members of District #55, I wish you a happy holiday season full of joy and happiness. This time of year can be very difficult for some of us alcoholics, whether we are newly sober or are members of long term recovery. Many of us have lost loved ones, homes, jobs, etc. and may wonder what we have to be joyful for. There have been occasions when I have questioned this myself.

If we look at the 12 promises in the Big Book we can find 12 reasons to put aside our negative thinking and look ahead with a more positive attitude. In the past 8 years I have lost several members of my immediate family, including my wife 5 years ago just weeks before Christmas. My recovery program made it possible for me to stay sober. This fellowship helped me to endure the pain and continue. It is not easy but it is possible.

If one reads the 12 steps in Chapter 5 of the BB, one will see that the word "I" is non-existent. I could not do this alone and needed you, the fellowship, to help me get through those troubling times. Having been sober for over 30 years, I still need you in my troubling times. We as a group can get any of us through any difficult day.

Please stay in touch with your new and old friends throughout the holidays. They need you as much as you need them. When your phone rings, answer it. You may save your friends life. If you are in need of help, please call someone. It could save your life. If you know someone who is going to be alone, please reach out to them. If you are going to be alone, please reach out to someone. Let's not lose anyone to fear.

The time and location of AA events this holiday season are noted in this edition. Everyone has a place to go and not be alone on Christmas and New Year's Eve day.

IF WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, WE CAN ALL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ALIVE.

Larry G. DCM – District #55

From Box 4-5-9

Holiday Issue 1967

Whatever holidays may have meant to us in drinking days, a real A.A. holiday is unforgettable for most of us whether it is New Year's Day, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving, or Christmas.

"There's nothing quite like an A.A. Christmas," one member writes, "Maybe not the first Christmas you are in A.A., but certainly the first Christmas A.A. is in you".

"A magic fills the air for everyone, but in an A.A.'s life it's very special, as his heart and life are filled with so many gifts. The gift of being loved, and of loving; of being understood, and of understanding; of being wanted, and of wanting; of being given to, and of giving.

"Money cannot buy these priceless gifts. An A.A. has love, friendship, an opportunity to contribute and add to the world, a feeling of belonging, and a desire to grow in A. A. so he will not have to reach for the first drink.

"As we look at Christmas lights we can look at all the enlightenment the 12 Steps have brought to us; of how we are now 'part of' a worldwide fellowship and are beginning to sense unity within through our 12 Traditions.

"We need never be alone again, need never reach for a drink; at least today.

"As we look at beautiful Christmas wreaths we can think, too, of the circle of unending

love and friendship surrounding A.A.'s triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

"We think quietly and gratefully of Bill and Dr. Bob and the other early A.A.'s of the A.A.'s around the world now -of the Loners and our seagoing Internationalists-and say, 'Merry Christmas to all, regardless of religious belief.'

"Yes, Christmas is a special 24 hours for A.A.'s. The phone rings and it is a 12th-Step call-a call for help. What greater gift can anyone have than the opportunity to give life to another suffering alcoholic as it has been given to us?

"In A.A. we call this service, and surely it is among the most precious gifts that we in A.A. share with one another.

"Every service that A.A. gives to alcoholics has come about as the result of a demonstrated need and is based on experience. The Steps were written from the pooled experience of 100 recovered alcoholics and given freely to any of us who wants to follow them to recovery. The Traditions, too, were evolved from the actual experience and activity of early A.A.'s and given freely to us as guidelines to growth, and to unity-to 'at-oneness' with each other and the rest of the world.

"The aim of all A.A. service-of all A.A. giving-is identical with A.A.'s primary purpose-to give A.A. to all who want it."

Traveling to Vegas Sober

Traveling sober was a new experience for me. I never had a problem with drinking and flying before. However, now that I am in the program it was a new experience. Not a bad one, it was harder than I thought.

My Mom had bought me concert tickets in Vegas to see Cher and Celine Dion. We took off on a Thursday, and left on Sunday. Four days in Vegas with someone who has five years of sobriety was challenging! But, I made it home sober. I'm glad I've been going to meetings every day and have been getting the tools to live out in the world without alcohol. This was my first time to Vegas and I honestly had no idea what I was in for. I had some idea but it was more than I thought.

When you get off in the airport in Vegas there's slot machines at the airport! I've never seen that before. Then when I went into the bathroom on the stall door there was a sign there that stated "If you are involved in human trafficking and need help, please call this number." Then over the intercom it said for safety reasons don't exchange diamonds with nobody that you don't know. I went back out to my mom and said, "Were defiantly not in Sequim anymore. "

The amount of lights, sounds, alcohol there was so overwhelming. I was able to talk through my feelings with my mom and my sober sisters on the phone. We took an Uber to our hotel room. When we arrived at the hotel it was covered in lights, sales people, and lots of liquor stores. I was in awe. I didn't have the desire to drink, just amazed by all the alcohol that was there just in the lobby!!

We got all checked in and started to walk the strip. I saw all sorts of night life that I have never been exposed to. Some of it was great fun, and other stuff was things I didn't want to see. HAHA. I got to gamble a little bit. The second spin I won a three-hundred-dollar jackpot and right away a cocktail waitress came up to me and asked me what I wanted to drink. I said Coke please. She says straight? I said yes. I guess that was the wrong answer because I never got my coke lol. (Laughing out loud) Then, twenty minutes later I won a hundred and twenty-two dollars. Yes, I took my winnings home. Long story short I quickly discovered I still have Addictive personalities. My mom had even told me that for the first time she was able to see my addiction side.

We got to see a couple of concert as I mentioned before. It was amazing! I could see shows all day long!! Cher is still rocking it at seventy-two. Celine Dion at fifty-seven did a great job as well. I have no desire to go back to the Vegas strip for a few more years. But I did have a lot of fun. It is possible to go to places sober. You have to have your program and tools in place. However, I would recommend that you have a few more years of sobriety other than five years to travel to Vegas. I have a whole new appreciation for the small town of Sequim, and my sober community!! Everything was open twenty-four hours. And, there is Starbucks literally on every corner and in every casino! I was in heaven. So glad to be home, and thank you AA for my sobriety!!

Megan, V

Thank you for the opportunity to serve District 55 – Julie P., Newsletter editor