

December 2016

WSFC Newsletter

“High and low, rich and poor, these are future fellows of Alcoholics Anonymous. Among them you will make lifelong friends. You will be bound to them with new and wonderful ties, for you will escape disaster together and you will commence shoulder to shoulder your common journey. Then you will know what it means to give of yourself that others may survive and rediscover life. You will learn the full meaning of “Love thy neighbor as thyself.””

Big Book P152-153

I was at my home group this morning and one of the folks sitting near me perked up and said, “Hey Dave’s here, I got sober with him 7 years ago.” I had a similar thought last week when I made arrangements to have dinner and catch a meeting with one of the guys I got sober with almost 30 years ago. It’s exactly as it says in the passage above – lifelong friends, with new and wonderful ties, journeying together. A special bond. A familial feeling. A gift.

I never thought that once I quit drinking that I’d finally have the friendships that I desperately sought in bar room after bar room. I didn’t think it was possible. Yet it happened, and continues to happen as life unfolds and new challenges present themselves. As I lean into the program and grow the community around me, I continue to make new friends, with wonderful ties that connect us as we journey forward.

The holidays can be rough, I encourage everyone to stay connected to their friends at the Club, the call for help you make, may just be the call that saves someone’s life.

ANNIVERSARIES – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

December

George C 36	Peter M 9	Tom Z 4
Steve M 18	Allen R 8	Jack A 2
Michael A 15	Lawrence R 7	Alex L 1
Clare L 12	Lori M 6	Glenn G 1
Steven B 12	Mark H 5	Matt G 1

The President's Corner

Happy Holidays!

For many people this is the season of joy, hope and peace.

But I am often reminded that this is not the best season for all of us. For those experiencing their first year of recovery, it may be quite stressful and uncertain. Even for those not in their first years, family events can be very stressful and triggering.

In some of my first meetings as I entered the world of recovery, the holidays were hitting and I related to stories from many about the interactions and challenges of family gatherings. It seemed like the topic of families and button pushing was in most meetings. My favorite line was "families don't accidentally push your buttons, they installed the buttons"... so of course they know exactly which ones to push to get maximum effect!

I also know many who are not with families or family members they want to be with this holiday season. And that can be difficult. In some cases, as with our family, the loss of a loved one is still fresh so the holidays are awkward and sad. When emotion pops up, we don't know whether to ride it up or down because we just don't know where it will go for each of us.

Finding meaning in this season is my goal. Meaning comes through seeing the world as bigger than just my needs and desires. As I focus on others around me I find relief and hope. In the joy of a child or a family member or friend in need, I find hope and peace.

As we come to the end of 2016, I want to thank all of the WSFC board members who served us this year. Some have moved on to new roles, some are just starting service in their new positions. Some are volunteering again to serve the community and give back in the spirit of recovery so they can keep what they have been so freely given. Thank you to all the board members and also to all the members who serve tirelessly.

You may have found the miracle I have found...meaning comes through service rather than the pursuit of happiness and pleasure. Happiness and even joy, freedom and peace are the result of giving and helping others. It is our most powerful paradox.

Thank you all and may you find peace this holiday season.

Greg G

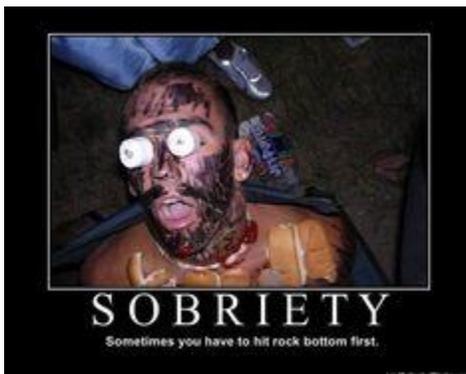
Please share your feedback!! (wscnewsletter@gmail.com)

Peg's Place

This is a special section dedicated to the people looking for something funny from the Club Newsletter, namely Peg. The opinions expressed are NOT Peg's but I think Peg will find them funny.

I've never seen anyone
drink themselves
smart, successful or happy.
Most end up broke,
bitter and alone

therehab.com



As an alcoholic,
you will violate
your standards
quicker than
you can lower them.
- Robin Williams

AA has a wrench
to fit every nut that
walks in the door



i wish i'd gotten drunk last night

said no one ever

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?

If you are thinking of yearend tax deductible charitable donations to an important cause close to home, please consider the WSFC.

The Club has ongoing expenses, special expenses and specific opportunities to spruce up the club and make it an even better place to meet and recover.

Here are some of the expenses we have that we could use your help with:

Replacement Main Room chairs and tables, as needed (Due to normal wear and tear)
Upgrade of Chairs and Tables (in the back rooms for side meetings)
Replacement Patio Furniture and Patio Awning (as required)
Floor Mats and Rugs (Normal Wear)
Pictures of AA Founders, Historical AA Decorations
New Vacuum Cleaner
New AA Books for Big Book Meetings and 12 Step Meetings

And finally - Donations are always helpful to continue on the path of having a Home of Our Own. The largest ongoing expense at the club is rent. Someday, the WSFC HOOO Fund will be sufficient to consider a permanent building that we own rather than rent. Over the next year, we will share more about our plans to share a 3-4-year plan to raise enough funds to move to a permanent home for the WSFC.

You can designate donations for specific upgrades and talk to board members about anything you see that needs attention. We always welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Thank you for your donations. The board continues to look for ways to save on expenses while also keeping the club well maintained and a great place for recovery for all of us in the community.

**The 10:00 AM Weekday Meetings Need Your Support!
The 3:00 PM Meetings Need Your Support! (M, W, F)**

Just a reminder – all membership dues for 2017 will be due on 1/31/17

Renewal notices have been mailed, please help support the club!

NEW MEMBERS

We have no new members for November!

It's a great time to invite a friend to join us on our journey!

There are a number of great reasons to both become a member and to keep your membership active. Meetings. Fellowship. Social events. Service. What are your reasons for being a member? I'd love to hear them, let me know at wsfnewsletter@gmail.com.

Join today, or renew your membership....your contributions are vital to keeping the doors open.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

Fatima Men's Retreat – “Emotional Sobriety” – January 6-8, 2017 Lindenwood Retreat Center, Donaldson, IN – call Chuck at 630-632-4200 with questions. Hosted by the Brain Damaged group.

We Are Not Saints Convention – January 12-15, 2017 – Holiday Inn Chicago, Skokie, IL – www.wearenotsaints.com

6th Annual DuPage County Open – Saturday February 18, 2017 Parkview Community Church in Glen Ellyn 7-8:30 PM

ISCYPAA – February 24-26, 2017 Holiday Inn Convention Center, Gurnee, IL. Go to www.iscypaa.org for more details.

NIA Spring Conference and Assembly – March 24-26, 2017 – Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

Women's 2017 Spring Retreat – March 31 – April 2, 2017 – Villa Deiderata in McHenry, IL. Email Tracy A tracy.albin@gmail.com with any questions.

The WSFC Newsletter welcomes all feedback and input. If you'd like to add, collaborate, participate, etc....let us know at wsfnewsletter@gmail.com!