

June 2016

WSFC Newsletter

"This latest part of my life has had a purpose, not in great things accomplished but in daily living. Courage to face each day has replaced the fears and uncertainties of earlier years. Acceptance of things as they are has replaced the old impatient champing at the bit to conquer the world. I have stopped tilting at windmills and instead have tried to accomplish the little daily tasks, unimportant in themselves, but tasks that are an integral part of living fully.

Where derision, contempt, and pity were once shown me, I now enjoy the respect of many people. Where I once had casual acquaintances, all of whom were fair-weather friends, I now have a host of friends who accept me for what I am. And over my AA years I have made many real, honest, sincere friendships that I shall always cherish." Pages 266-267

Admittedly, I don't spend a whole lot of time reading anything past Dr. Bob's Nightmare, but I recently read this story and loved this quote. I thought it summed up what is possible in recovery quite well. I came here to simply quit drinking. That's all I wanted. I had no idea that there was so much available to me in life. I've heard it shared that if I had stopped working this program when the obsession left me, I would've sold myself short. I couldn't agree more.

The author talks about life having a purpose now. I keep thinking about the idea that my life has a purpose now. I don't know about you, but I certainly didn't have a purpose before I got sober. I existed. I was either between drunks or drunk. Barely an excuse for a life. A total waste of skin. I was a parasite, contributing close to nothing.

I found AA, and things changed. It certainly didn't change overnight, but there were significant improvements just by not drinking anymore. I could've stopped there. But as it says on Pages 128-129, *"Like a gaunt prospector, belt drawn in over the last ounce of food, our pick struck gold. Joy at our release from a lifetime of frustration knew no bounds. Father feels he has struck something better than gold. For a time he may try to hug the new treasure to himself. He may not see at once that he has barely scratched a limitless lode which will pay dividends only if he mines it for the rest of his life and insists on giving away the entire product."*

I absolutely love the phrase "barely scratched a limitless lode which will pay dividends only if he mines it for the rest of his life and insists on giving the away the entire product." Very easily I could've stopped there not realizing that I had barely scratched the surface of what is possible. I would've missed out on some of the most amazing things I've ever seen.

I was at an open meeting last week, and we had a “normie” there, a student in addictions counseling, it was her first meeting. Afterwards she said “I never knew that AA was about so much more than just not drinking – it’s about living life to the fullest.” Amen!

Getting a sponsor, working the steps, and getting into the middle of the Fellowship has given me a life beyond my wildest dreams. I came here thinking I’d just been handed a death sentence, and what I’ve found is a lifetime membership to the Greatest Show on Earth.....where else can I show up, toss a buck into the basket, and get fed, have my mind fired, find encouragement, grow my hope and witness miracles all around the room???!!!! This program is amazing, and I find that whenever my life is less than amazing, all I have to do is go to a meeting and listen to how life is changing for all the people around me and realize that if it’s happening for them, it can happen for me.

Grateful!

Peg’s Place

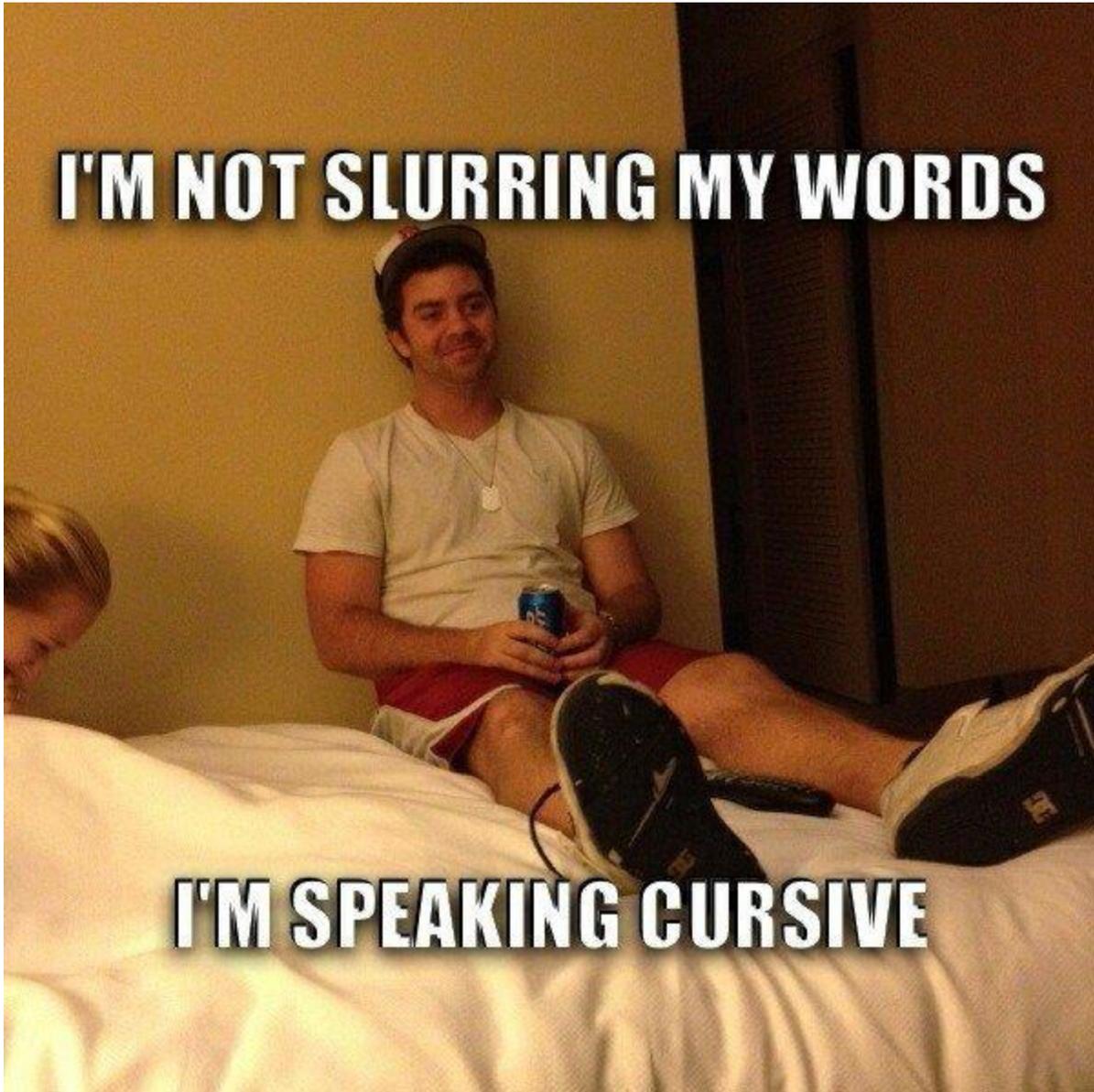
This is a special section dedicated to the people looking for something funny from the Club Newsletter, namely Peg. The opinions expressed are NOT Peg’s but I think Peg will find them funny.



I WAS ALWAYS THE
BLACK SHEEP. THEN I
STARTED GOING TO
MEETINGS AND FOUND
THE REST OF THE HERD.

We Are Not Saints

I'M NOT SLURRING MY WORDS



I'M SPEAKING CURSIVE

So you never worked a step, stopped going to meetings, stopped calling your sponsor, isolated from your network, and finally relapsed.



And it's the PROGRAM that "doesn't work"?

I DONT ALWAYS GO TO AA MEETINGS



BUT WHEN I DO I FEEL MUCH BETTER ABOUT EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE

The President's Corner

Summer is here!

The heat is upon us and the WSFC is staying the coolest place in Naperville to work a 12 step program of recovery. We have the support of over 200 active members now and our financial condition seems solid with some positive growth in attendance and membership.

A note of appreciation to two board members who have served the club well over the past 18 months! Both MJ (membership) and Joe (literature) have decided to step down and make room for others to serve. Thank you MJ for your service and work on the membership programs. We have made significant headway in simplifying the membership administration and growing our active member roster. And thank you Joe for your work on literature - keeping us in stock with the best reference books on recovery.

This past month we have focused as a board on the safety and security of the club. Some improvements have been made to our infrastructure as well as an update to the club code of conduct to ensure that everyone feels safe and secure before, during and after meetings. Please take a look at the new WSFC code of conduct and let any member of the board know if you have feedback or witness issues that need to be addressed.

We have also continued to focus on the basic mission of the club to provide a clean and safe place for 12 step recovery meetings of all types. The cleaning team has continued to keep things as clean as possible given the large number (over 150-200 some days) of people using the club each day. We appreciate their diligence - please thank anyone you see working on the crew and also bring any issues to the board's attention immediately.

Thank you for your service as members and guests - we have had many new members join as well as past members renew this year. Your attendance helps others by lighting the path of recovery in our community - and showing it is possible to live in a different way than many of us even knew existed.

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

In your service,

Greg G

SPOTLIGHT ON SOBRIETY

Name: DJ T

Sobriety Date: 8/14/88

Hometown: Wheaton

Home Group: Beyond Any Lengths 6:30 am Saturday / 2 Drunks & a Book Monday 7 pm

Favorite thing about the WSFC:

The people. Not only do I find help, hope, and recovery here, but its where all of my friends are. The steps got me sober, but the people (Fellowship) help keep me sober.

Favorite recovery quotes:

“Sit down. Shut up. Don’t drink. Don’t think. Go to meetings. Get a sponsor and work the steps.” – Frank H.

“We are not a glum lot.” – the Big Book

“Don’t be anonymous in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.” – Larry K

What would you have told the newcomer you?

Don’t confuse blessings with recovery and regardless of how bleak things seem, remember that the story isn’t done being written.

Why is service important to you?

AA has given me a life beyond my wildest dreams. When I forget that, or when I take credit for that, I am headed for trouble. My first sponsor taught me that giving a little of my time and energy is a small price to pay for the gift of recovery that I have received.

Why is being a member of the WSFC important to you?

My default setting is to live a life avoiding accountability, commitment and connection. Being a member connects me, strengthens my commitment, and puts me in position to be held accountable.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our family! Thank you for your support!

Brian H	Sean C	Robert A	James K
Diane N	Sherry D	Shelly M	Laura J
Jim B	Anita P	Eric F	Neil H

The 10:00 AM Weekday Meetings Need Your Support!

ANNIVERSARIES – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

June

Sarah K 36	Ray O 20	John V 10	Ed O 3
Bill B 30	Alison S 20	Susan W 9	Liz M 2
John D 29	Steve T 17	Lee D 6	Linda B 2
Tony P 25	Patti M 12	Jeff I 5	Bob B 1
Peggy L 21	John V 10	Curtis L 4	Terri N 1
Patti D 20	Jason B 10	Rita W 3	Tom C 1

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 wsfcnewsletter@gmail.com.

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

If you haven't heard already – Club Memberships are now \$50 for the rest of the year!

THINGS WE HEAR:

"I let things happen today rather than trying to make them happen." – Bob F

"Pause, Pray, Proceed." – Robyn

"Stop sabotaging your serenity." – Jerry S

The Membership Process Is Changing

The Board will be rolling out a new program for memberships. First of all, the dues are not changing....it will still be an annual rate of \$75. However, the Board has elected to change the process for renewals and new members starting immediately.

New Members:

If someone new joins the club in January, February, March or April, their dues for the year will be \$75

If someone new joins the club in May, June, July or August their dues for the year will be \$50

If someone new joins the club in September, October, November or December, their dues for the year will be \$25.

Then for 2017, ALL membership dues of \$75 will be due by 1/31/17.

The Board has elected to implement this change so that the Membership Coordinator and her Committee can focus on growing membership and raising funds for the Home of Our Own Fund rather than monthly renewal communications.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

WSFC SUMMER PICNIC – July 30, 2 – 6 PM....at the WSFC.....bring your family and kids for an afternoon of fun!

District 61 Family Picnic – August 6 – Lion's Park 550 S Filmore St Elburn, IL call Jen with questions – 773-750-3066

New meeting – WSFC – 7 PM Mondays– Big room – Big Book Study

2016 Illinois State Conference – August 12-14 – Pheasant Run Resort, St Charles, IL – call Dana T @ 847-322-5256 for more information or www.aailcon.org

Big Book Conference – October 29 – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Wheaton Bible Church, Wheaton, IL – call Jason @ 312-834-1819 with questions or email niabigbookconference@gmail.com

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

Grateful!