

September 2016

WSFC Newsletter

"We are average Americans. All sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social, and religious backgrounds. We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table. Unlike the feelings of the ship's passengers, however, our joy in escape from disaster does not subside as we go our individual ways. The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined." Big Book P 17

"Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you." Big Book P 152

I am proud to say that I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am proud to say that I belong to one of the most amazing communities I have ever come across, and I didn't come here because I wanted to be here. In all honesty, this was the last place on Earth I wanted to be, and I was darned sure I wouldn't still be here almost 30 years later. My plan was to check in, steal the good stuff, and check out. But this Fellowship grabbed hold of me, and hasn't let me go. The steps got me sober. But the Fellowship keeps me coming back.

This past month I was struck by the power of the Fellowship in action. Watching people come along one another to love and support each another moved me to tears a number of times. I was filled with overwhelming sense of gratitude for this program and the people in it. I was moved by the beauty of compassion, love, community, and unity that I witnessed. I couldn't help but feel humbled to be just a small part of it. The grace and beauty of our community is beyond words....as individuals, we are all quite flawed, but as a group we are pretty damn amazing.

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.

**A HANGOVER IS JUST YOUR BODY
REMINDING YOU THAT YOU'RE AN
IDIOT.**

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The worst part of quitting drinking is the lack of excuses you now have for your behavior.



ROTTEN CARDS USER MADE



The President's Corner

Gratitude

When I first heard the advice to make a gratitude list, I thought it was just another trite phrase from the old-timers. This month, our family is in the midst of the hardest season we have ever faced. Jill and I lost our oldest son, Taylor, in a tragic car accident on August 29th.

We have been told that the loss of a child is one of the hardest things to endure, if not the hardest for parents. However, losses in our families are not comparable, whether it is a child, a spouse, a parent, a close friend or brother/sister. How can someone suggest that one loss is worse than another - all losses are unimaginable and shocking to the system.

So how can I be grateful during this season? I don't know. Another mystery of recovery is unfolding before us as we walk this unknown path without a guide. Our AA friends and comrades in recovery have stepped in and held us together as a family when we could not hold it together ourselves. Our community, our church, our neighborhood are all rallying around us as the

waves of grief crash over us and the wreckage of our lives floats about us as if all our plans are meaningless.

How is it possible that so many are willing and able to go far out of their way to help us? Well, sobriety starts to create circles of friendships, relationships repair, and the openness and vulnerability of asking for help becomes possible once again - as opposed to the isolation of active addiction we all experienced before turning this amazing corner.

We are grateful for the AA community - the meals, the rides, the lawn care, the excursions and distractions to help us cope in the early days of unbearable pain. The meetings where I can share my shock and grief, the meetings where I can share stories of my son and his journey, the stories of our journey with him both before and after I became a sober Dad. We are grateful.

Taylor was our amazing artist - a counter culture, environmentalist, caring, vegan, rebellious, athletic, deep soul - with friendships and relationships beyond our knowledge and stories of life that are a gift as we uncover parts of his life on the east coast we were not privy to for the last several years. Taylor was 27 - fiercely independent and we loved him beyond measure. We are grateful sobriety and recovery brought us closer together as a family and as a father/son in the last years - an incredible, priceless gift.

Time is short - life is limited for all of us - and I am very grateful I found a path in recovery that included as much relationship renewal as a family as it has for us. Please keep Jill, Dylan, Mackenzie and Paige in your thoughts and prayers as we navigate this impossible journey.

We could not do it without the community around us - without a doubt, we are grateful today.

In your service,

Greg G

Please share your feedback!! ([wsfcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wsfnewsletter@gmail.com))

SPOTLIGHT ON SOBRIETY

Name: Jeni M

Sobriety Date: 10/14/15

Hometown: Naperville

Home Group: 5pm Happy Hour Group

Favorite thing about the WSFC:

I enjoy the push towards fellowship and getting people involved. It's good to see newcomers welcomed and brought into service work.

Favorite recovery quotes:

"Can't fall out of the middle." PBHN

What would you have told the newcomer you?

Find good people with good sobriety. Stick with them. When in doubt, ask. When you think you know the answer be quiet and listen. Above all, embrace the hope you find.

Why is service important to you?

What I want from life is to leave the world a little bit better than it was. Service inside the rooms and out in the world makes it possible to do that. It also creates a sense of responsibility to others and to yourself. Sometimes that's all you need to keep moving through the rough spots. You meet people and get to know people you might not otherwise. Honestly, what else better do you have to do, especially early on?

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

It supports the idea of accountability. If you are a member of something, you are no longer an observer. Many of us lack a sense of belonging. This is a small step in the right direction.

The 10:00 AM Weekday Meetings Need Your Support!

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our family! Thank you for your support!

Ron B	R. Chris L
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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!

ANNIVERSARIES – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September

Nan D 38	Pete D 12	Mike N 5	Patrick M 3
Marc W 32	Linda B 11	Pamela J 4	Tom W 2
Ray L 32	Cyndy S 7	Jean K 3	Danny V 1
Bonnie N 16	Sean H 7	Joe V 3	Shelly M 1

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

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!