

# CAMEL COURIER

VOLUME 28 ◉ ISSUE 6 ◉ JUNE 2014

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**District 11 – Area 34**  
coverage area includes:  
Antrim, Benzie,  
Grand Traverse,  
Kalkaska, & Leelanau  
counties.

**Central Office**  
124 N. Division Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684

☉ ☉ ☉

**Hot Line**  
(231) 946-8823  
24/7 Service

**Business Line**  
(231) 946-6716

**Business Office Hours**  
Mon – Fri 10AM - 5PM  
Saturday 10AM - 2PM

**Email**  
district11centraloffice@yahoo.com

**Website**  
www.district11-aa.org

**Board**  
Rick C., Chair  
Kip M., Secretary  
Ken W., Treasurer  
Victor F., Literature Buyer  
Jodie S., Webmaster  
Mike H., Newsletter Editor  
Phil S.  
Dale B.

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Susan N.

## I Don't Believe in God, But I Pray

Being free of God doesn't mean I have to be free of hope.

**A** few coins lay at the patinated feet of a statue of St. Jude outside a Roman Catholic church in Brooklyn. The patron saint of desperate cases and hopeless causes stands silent as those wrestling with life dominating addictions enter one of the many Alcoholics Anonymous meetings hosted in the church's basement.

Even though society at large has grown increasingly secular since the 1960's, inside this enclave many will encourage each other to fortify their sobriety through hitting their knees in prayer to God.

Yet some members, like "John," 43, and in his fifteenth year of recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol, are sharing a new slogan:

"I don't believe in god, but I pray."

Alcoholics Anonymous has a long-standing tradition of using prayer as a means of combating addiction. Bill Wilson, the founder of AA., was greatly influenced by the Oxford Group, a fundamentalist Christian movement that emphasized "God-Controlled" living through prayer. Wilson ascribes his being relieved from late stage chronic alcoholism to the power of a divine being he maintained communion with through prayer over the 37 years of his sobriety.

Yet since its early days, AA has had a minority voice advocating a secular understanding of sobriety. Jim Burwell, a self-described "militant agnostic" and one of the first ten members of Alcoholics Anonymous, was instrumental in the formulation of the society's third tradition, a guiding principle which states, "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking" - not belief in God or prayer.

While some contemporary freethinkers, atheists, and agnostics who don't believe in prayer are choosing to migrate to any of the nearly 150 secular 12 step groups in the United States, some are choosing to forge a middle path within mainstream AA. This middle path embraces a non-theistic understanding of recovery, but also advocates the traditional practice of prayer

as a tool in recovery. Is this a case of bad faith or are John and those like him early adopters of an emerging understanding of prayer, one that is borne out by their own experiences?

In His hooded sweatshirt and black skinny jeans, John looks young for a man in his early middle age. A bohemian from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

a time when an artist could afford an entire floor of a Brooklyn loft and still have cash to spend on coke- and alcohol-fueled benders, John shrugs his shoulders with indifference when asked if his is a case of bad faith.

"I don't care if they think I'm doing it right... After ten years I realized I was doing just fine without belief in God."

Yet it wasn't always like this for John. In his early days of sobriety he was uncomfortable with the Christian inspired language of the Big Book, AA's foundational text. John had no problem with other points of emphasis within AA such as community, accountability and restitution for past harms. Yet the word "god" made him enormously uncomfortable.

"I was fearful that I would have to believe in something I didn't buy into in order to get sober."

### About the *Camel Courier*

Articles printed in the Camel Courier are the opinions expressed by individuals and not those of Central Office, the Board of Directors, or AA as a whole.

If you have an AA announcement, a meeting change you want others to know about, an upcoming AA event, a new meeting you want to get started, an anniversary, or a story to tell ... please submit via snail mail to:

**Camel Courier**, c/o Central Office  
124 N. Division Street,  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
or email to:  
mthotis@aol.com  
and enter "**Camel Courier**"  
in the Subject Line.

All items are subject to editing.  
Deadline for submission is the 25th  
day of every month.

Published monthly, the  
**Camel Courier** is FREE online at  
[www.district11-aa.org](http://www.district11-aa.org), or can be  
picked up at Central Office.

Full of doubt and desperate to be free from his addiction to alcohol and drugs and believing AA was his only option, John threw himself into prayer despite his lack of belief in a divine higher power. Fifteen years of sobriety later, John still doesn't believe in god, but he still prays. Yet asked what he is praying to John says, "I don't have a sense that there is anything listening."

For John, prayer isn't about communion with the divine. Prayer is a vocalization of his hopes and fears, a means of releasing pent up emotions and affirming a mindset of inner peace and well-being. Although he doesn't believe in the god addressed in traditional AA supplications like the Serenity Prayer, he feels they serve a purpose in helping him stay sober.

"I feel centered by the action of prayer... They have reminders in them that put me in a mindset that typically isn't my default."

John isn't the only one advocating the benefits of secular prayer. For "Paul," 28, an agnostic who has been sober for nearly two years, prayer is about cultivating solitude. After hitting bottom with his drinking, Paul was attracted to the pluralistic tradition of Jim Burwell within AA.

"The selling point in AA was that I didn't have to believe in God and that I could pray however I wanted to."

The son of a Presbyterian minister, prayer was a large part of his upbringing. Yet the boisterous prayers his father would offer before dinner and at the pulpit left him feeling like prayer was about pontification. Because of this, "I had a really tough time with prayer for a long time."

Yet wanting the support community that AA had to offer, he was willing to toe the line in his early sobriety, going so far as to pray on his knees next to his bed per the

suggestion of his more traditional sponsor.

Yet having wrestled with his own lack of belief over the course of his sobriety, Paul came to the hard won conclusion, "I don't have a beef with word god," but I don't feel comfortable with it when it refers to a personal relationship with a divine being."

From this fidelity to self Paul's understanding of prayer grew. Now Paul prays while walking, while riding the subway and even while in the bathroom - essentially anywhere where stress which may make him vulnerable to old addictive behaviors pops up. Paul uses prayer to focus on the rhythm of his breath and clear his mind. As a result of this meditative style of prayer, Paul feels he has a significant tool at his disposal in learning to lead a sober life.

In November a first-ever agnostics and atheists in recovery convention will be held in Santa Monica, California. This may be evidence that the prevailing mode of thought within AA is shifting, but will credence be given to the experiences of those those who identify as secular, but continue to make use of prayer in recovery? Regardless of the direction AA takes in the future, John and Paul feel that in the present they are embodying, one day at a time, the motto imprinted on the anniversary medallions marking their years sober: "To thine own self be true."

# Calendar of Events - JUNE, 2014

**June 6, 7, 8** Founders Day 2014 - 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in Akron, OH. For More Information: [http://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=featured&Itemid=101](http://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101)

**Newsletter Editor's Note:** *To anyone from the Grand Traverse Region going to Founders' Day – if you so desire, please journal your experiences during the course of your visit at the Birthplace of AA, and email them to me (mthotis@aol.com) for publication in a future 'Camel Courier'.*

**June 7, 14, 21, 28** Open Talk at Munson Hospital basement, 1105 Sixth Street, Traverse City, 8:00pm. Please contact Brian S. (231) 715-6866 if you would like to be a Speaker.

**June 11** Central AA Office Board Meeting, 124 N. Division Street, Traverse City at 5:30pm. All AA and Al-Anon/Alateen members are welcome. For More Information: Call (231) 946-6716.

**June 14** District 11 Meeting, Munson Hospital at the Cafeteria Dining Room #2, 1105 Sixth Street, Traverse City at 9:30am. For More Information: Email [area34.district11@gmail.com](mailto:area34.district11@gmail.com).

**June 15** Fife Lake Annual Father's Day Picnic at the Fife Lake Park. Fun and Fellowship starts at !2 Noon, AA/Al-Anon speakers at 1:00pm. Food served around 2:00pm (meat. coffee and utensils supplied). Please bring a dish to pass. No pets please.

**June 15** Western Michigan Area 34 Assembly. Hosted by District 15. Inverness Township Hall, 734 West VFW Road, Cheboygan at 10:30am. For More Information: view their website at <http://www.wmaa34.com/>.

Do you have an upcoming AA or Al-Anon/Alateen event in your area?

Please email information to [mthotis@aol.com](mailto:mthotis@aol.com), and enter "Camel Courier" in the Subject Line.

## 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Laymen's Retreat July 11-13 Olivet, MI

An annual retreat of spirituality and fellowship  
for men of alcoholics anonymous.



For More Information:  
View their website at

<http://www.laymensretreat.org>

## Annual MCYPAA CampOut July 25-27

Paddlebrave Campground,  
10610 Steckert Bridge Road in Roscommon.

Meetings on Friday and Saturday night. Canoeing  
on Saturday. Dinner provided Saturday night.

To reserve a camp site and a canoe,  
call the campground at (989) 275-5273  
and let them know you're with MCYPAA.

For More Information, Email:  
[MCYPAAC@comcast.net](mailto:MCYPAAC@comcast.net)

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Michigan State Convention August 22, 23, 34

Radisson Hotel at the Capitol in Lansing, MI

For More Information:

[http://www.cmia32.org/fliers/2014-MI\\_State\\_Convention.pdf](http://www.cmia32.org/fliers/2014-MI_State_Convention.pdf)

## SAVE THE DATES



2014 Traverse City Fall Roundup  
October 31, November 1 and 2  
Park Place Hotel ◆ Traverse City, MI

DETAILS COMING SOON!

## We Agnostics and Freethinkers International AA Convention November 6, 7, 8, 2014 Santa Monica, California

For More Information:  
<http://waftiaac.org/>

## 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous July 2-5, 2015

at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia  
DETAILS COMING THIS SEPTEMBER.

For More Information:

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=466>

❖ DETROIT, MI will be hosting the 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous ❖

## Central Office Always Needs Volunteers

Whether you can help — in the OFFICE, handle  
AFTER HOURS CALLS,  
be on the 12 STEP CALL or RIDES LIST ...

**PLEASE WE NEED YOU!!!**

For More Information,  
call **Susan N.**, Central Office's Volunteer Coordinator,  
at (231) 645-1267.

# T H A N K   Y O U

To all the **MAY 2014**  
Central Office Volunteers:

Abby	Frank	Ken
Alex	James	Kip
Charlie	Janine	Rick
Daniel	Joseph	Susan
Ed	Josh	Susan N.
Edwina	Ken	Victor
Eleanor		

**RECOVERY ★ UNITY ★ SERVICE**

## Central Office May 2014 Call Log

\* **83** Females & **66** Males contacted Central Office  
\* **66** by phone & **83** walk-ins & **8** after hours calls

### INQUIRING ABOUT:

- \* **32** Conference Approved Literature
- \* **14** Non-Conference Literature
- \* **05** Al-Anon Literature
- \* **03** Pamphlets
- \* **25** Gift Items
- \* **00** Special Items
- \* **37** AA Meetings in District 11
- \* **04** AA Meetings in Other Areas
- \* **02** Al-Anon Meetings
- \* **05** Other Alcoholism Resources
- \* **01** Other 12 Step Programs
- \* **04** Ride to Meeting
- \* **02** 12 Step Call
- \* **00** Drinking Problem—Self
- \* **02** Drinking Problem—Family
- \* **01** Drinking Problem –Other
- \* **33** Other



## Central Office Treasurers Report of April 2014

Checking Account Balance ..... \$ 3,578.55  
Total Deposits ..... \$ 3,222.64

Before April Expenses ..... \$ 6,801.19  
**Expenditures In April 2014**

Rent	-735.00
Volunteer Coordinator	-460.00
Phone/Internet	-177.12
Postage	-85.91
Moving Savings Account Per Month	-250.00
Literature	-1,046.17
Office Supplies	-49.66
Sales Tax Paid to State	-144.52
Bank Fees	-32.73

**Total Expenses for April    \$ -2,981.11**

### Checking Account Balance April 2014

CD Saving	\$513.79
CD Saving	\$545.19
Sales for April 2014	\$3,150.18
Sales Tax Due	\$189.01
Donations to Central Office	\$667.01
Savings Account Balance	\$505.25
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$3,820.08</b>

### Contributions Received in April

West End Group, Primary Purpose Suttons Bay, Sunday  
Night Suttons Bay, Bayview Weslyn Group, Leyroy AA  
Group, Carp River Group, Tuesday Nooners Group,  
Clear Minds Group, ACOA, Bayview Breakers,  
Anonymous

★ Report compiled by Ken W. ★

Central Office's website continues to improve under the supervision and maintenance of our  
Webmaster, Jodie S. Please visit our website for various AA and Al-Anon/Alateen recovery  
announcements, meeting schedules (printable), and other pertinent information:

**[www.district11-aa.org](http://www.district11-aa.org)**

## DISTRICT 11 MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2014

The meeting opened at the Munson Hospital Cafeteria Dining Room #2 at 9:30 am with the Serenity Prayer, followed by the opening readings and roll call: \* District 11 Statement of Purpose – Deanna D.; \* 5th Tradition – Jodie S.; \* 5th Concept – Paul R.; \* Declaration of Unity –Sharon M.; \* Roll Call – 14 voting members.

### OFFICER REPORTS

**Secretary** – Deanna D. April 2014 minutes were read and accepted.

**Treasurer** – Jodie S. April 30, 2014 balance \$2,828.51. Contributions=\$277.30 from: District 11 April Meeting, West End Group (April & May), Sunday Night Suttons Bay Group, Lamda AA and Lake Leelanau Tuesday Nooners Group. Expenditures=\$34.26 for: Grapevine subscription and Secretary draw. Prudent reserve=\$600.04. Treasury report for April 2014 accepted. Please send all District 11 contributions to PO Box 1231, Traverse City, MI 49685.

**Chair** – Paul R. Nothing to report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PI/CPC Committee.** Phil S. He did a public information presentation to approximately 100 kids, on alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous at Leland High School on April 18, 2014. After a general presentation by five people, they broke out into smaller groups in separate rooms for a question/answer session and literature was handed out, too. It all went well. He will now make efforts to reach out to other schools in the area to propose coming in and doing the same type of presentation.

**Corrections Committee.** Jerry H. He was given twelve Big Books when he took over as Corrections chair. He has five Big Books and one Living Sober remaining. If anyone who is doing jail/corrections meetings needs materials, please contact Jerry H. His contact information is on the attached Contact List. Also, the Corrections donation can had a total of \$40.89. Books to use at the Leelanau County Jail were purchased from the Central Office for \$17.33, leaving a balance of \$23.56. The Pugsley Meetings are going well, but they are in need of approximately 20 to 30 Big Books. He has contacted Andy from Area 34 in an attempt to secure some at the next Area Meeting on May 18, 2014. However, the Central Office has donated a Big Book/12 & 12 VHS to take into Pugsley. He inquired as to whether District 11 has an open (credit) account with the Central Office. **Response:** No. To date, reimbursement for material is handled by receipt submission to the District 11 treasurer. However, Jodie S. will look into whether establishing a credit account with the Central Office may be possible. Finally, any groups interested in donating AA approved literature would be greatly appreciated, even old Grapevine issues. The inmates really enjoy reading and discussing the literature, as it passes the time when there is no meeting available.

Question from Ryan D., GSR West End. What/who is the Northern Michigan Area Corrections Committee (NMA)? **Response:** The NMA is not affiliated with District 11 or Area 34. They are a separate group that meets to address corrections ONLY throughout Northern Michigan. They meet on a quarterly basis. They will be present at the Northern Michigan Intra Area (NMIA) Spring Roundup.

**Grapevine.** Rick T. District 11 raffled off a subscription at the Fifth Tuesday Open Speaker meeting in Kalkaska on April 29th. That subscription is forthcoming. As a reminder, he will also do a giveaway at the Westside Fifth Friday Open Speaker meeting on May 30th. If anyone is interested in a subscription giveaway for your group, please contact Rick T. via the District 11 contact information attachment. Also, the Grapevine display is almost finished and will be presented at the Northern Intra Area Spring Roundup in Grayling, MI. To date, he has not yet been in contact with the Munson Treatment facility to donate a few copies of the Grapevine.

**Treatment Facilities.** Open position, no report.

**Special Needs.** Sharon M. Things are slow going, but are being done very thoughtfully. She has compiled a letter (it was passed around to each voting member) that might be helpful in putting together a packet to get special needs attention. The letter would be distributed to hospitals, physician offices, schools and community mental health facilities. Please stay tuned for more information about the aforementioned letter in June's meeting minutes. Also, Disability Network has provided her with a list of signers that may be available to sign at the Munson Hospital Open Talk on Saturday evenings. Finally, Jodie S. will be putting the special needs survey on the Central Office website.

**Central Office Liaison Report.** Victor F. is not present. However, a couple of previous issues were addressed:

\* Volunteers have stepped up to transport the literature to the NMIA Spring Roundup, and to man the literature room for sales.

\* The Central Office is still looking for a new location, and Phil S. will get more information at the Central Office Board Meeting on May 14, 2014.

### DCM REPORTS

**Antrim.** Open position, no report.

**Benzie.** Open position, no report.

**Grand Traverse.** Paul R. He would like to get MCYPPA on board with District 11. He had a conversation with Lacey, who is currently living in Petoskey and involved with District 13, about ideas on how to get MCYPPA involved.

**Kalkaska.** Mel H. The Fifth Tuesday Potluck Meeting in April was well attended. Paul J. was the speaker and he shared a great message. A Grapevine subscription was given away, and the raffle brought in \$87.50 to support the NMIA Roundup on May 23, 24 and 25, 2014. Fife Lake is planning it's annual Father's Day Picnic on June 15, 2014. It will kick off at Noon, Speaker at 1:00 PM and lunch to follow at 2:00 PM. Meat will be provided (i.e. brats, burgers, hot dogs). Please bring a dish to pass. Join us for an afternoon of celebrating dads and the fun of fellowship. No pets please!

**Leelanau.** Ted K. He has submitted a receipt for \$50.00 for Leelanau County pocket meeting schedules. A Summer picnic in August of 2014 is still in the works, please stay tuned.

**AREA 34** No Report. However, Mel H., Jerry H., Sharon M. and Rick T. all plan to attend the next Area Meeting on May 18, 2014 in Gaylord, MI.

**GROUP INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS** Ryan D., GSR West End- The West End group requested a meeting schedule change. Please change the acronym for the Agnostic meeting on Friday night at 7:00 PM because it is causing some confusion. It will be changed from "AG" to "Ag." The Central Office is aware of it and will make the change.

**TC FALL ROUNDUP** Jodie S.- The next roundup meeting is Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:45 PM at West End. We need a couple of more volunteers to join the roundup committee. If anyone has any ideas for roundup, please join us. Paul R.- He requested a detailed list of what the roundup needs as far as monetary donations, volunteers, etc. The committee will compile a list to present at the next district meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**September 2014 District 11 Meeting** Paul R. - We need a committee chairperson for the district meeting/service workshop/potluck that is scheduled for September 13, 2014. Rick T. - He will ask the Area 34 delegate at the Area meeting if he can reserve September 13 to speak at the workshop. He will also try to reserve the Kalkaska Senior Center for that day; alternate date would be September 20, 2014. Service Workshop business tabled until next month.

**County Meeting Schedule** Rick T. - Preparation of the county meeting schedules is currently on hold. The jackets are complete, but the inside guts are not. Would Jodie S. like to assist in completing the meeting schedules? A conversation to ensue off the record. Please stay tuned.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The submission of Ted K.'s \$50.00 receipt for the cost of the Leelanau County Pocket Meeting Schedules resulted in a discussion concerning an allowable amount for meeting schedules across the five counties. Should a new line item be added to the District 11 2014 Expenditures spreadsheet that reads: \$150.00 = District 11 Meeting Schedules **Motion:** To alter the treasury report line item to state \$150.00 for District 11 Meeting Schedules. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 11:10 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Munson Hospital Cafeteria Dining Room #2, Traverse City, MI.

Yours in love and service, Deanna D., District 11 Secretary



**CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

FROM May 14, 2014

(MINUTES to be approved at the JUNE 11, 2014 Board Meeting)

**Board Members present:** Rick (Chair), Kip (Secretary), Ken (Treasurer), Victor (Literature Purchaser), Mike (Newsletter Editor) Jodi (Webmaster), Dale and Phil.

**Others present:** Susan (Volunteer Coordinator, Edwina.

The Board Meeting commenced at 5:40pm by Rick with a moment of silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*.

**Secretary's Report:** Kip read the minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dale moved to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken presented the Treasurer's Report. Rick asked for questions. Treasurer's Report was placed on file.

**Webmaster Report:** Jodi reported she had a number of requests to make some changes to the schedule and has been able to make the necessary changes to most of them.

**IT Report:** Progress is being made with regards to entering data onto the Central Office QuickBooks program. Inventory and receipts are nearly up to date.

**Camel Courier Report:** Everything seems to be going well with the Camel Courier. Mike requested that if anyone is going to Founder's Day in Akron to let him know. Mike is looking for someone to journal their experience while at Founder's Day. This journal would be included in a later addition of the Camel Courier.

**Literature Report:** Sales were down for the previous six weeks. A truck and volunteer was found to help with the Northern Michigan Inter-area literature sales. Thanks to Debbie for helping out and to Jack for letting Central Office use his truck to transport books and stuff. For any group to be excluded from paying sales tax on literature they must present Central Office with a copy of their 501c. 501c is proof that the group is a non-profit organization.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:** Still looking for more volunteers to help at Central Office.

**Old Business:** Central Office is still looking for a location to move to in the near future. We would like it to be about 700 square feet and Handicap accessible.

**New Business:** Jodi made a motion to change the combination on the locks to the office every six months. Motion carried unanimously. Phil made a motion to direct the Webmaster to delete any non AA meetings from the District 11 AA schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Victor suggested that we create links on our website that would allow people to connect to other websites that were interested in other 12 step programs. This will be tabled until the next Central Office meeting to investigate the feasibility.

Dale made a motion to close the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed with the "I am Responsible" statement.



# Central Office Announcements

## SEEKING NEW OFFICE SPACE

Central Office is looking for office space. We need a minimum of 700 square feet that is ADA accessible, located in/near downtown, has two or more rooms, as well as parking available. If you have a lead, please call Central Office and leave a message at (231) 946-6716, or email [district11centraloffice@yahoo.com](mailto:district11centraloffice@yahoo.com).

## AA Archives - JUNE

- June 1, 1949 Dr. Bob's wife, Anne S. dies
- June 6, 1979 AA gives 2 millionth *Big Book* to Joseph Califano, Founder/Chairman of The Natl. Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), presented by Lois Wilson
- June 8, 1941 First AA group in Kalamazoo, MI forms
- June 11, 1945 2500 attend 10th AA Anniversary in Cleveland, OH
- June 15, 1938 This date marks the first use of the term *Alcoholics Anonymous*
- June 18, 1940 100 attend the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., NYC
- June 21, 1944 First issue of the *AA Grapevine* is published
- June 25, 1939 *The New York Times* favorably reviews the *Big Book*
- June 26, 1935 AA's third member, Bill D., gets sober
- June 30, 1941 Ruth Hock introduces Bill W. to the *Serenity Prayer* for first time
- June 30, 2000 47,000 from 87 countries attend 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN
- June 30, 2005 44,000 attend 70th AA Anniversary in Toronto

### Open Speaker Meetings at Munson Hospital Basement Saturdays (8:00pm)

#### Upcoming Speakers

- June 7 ..... OPEN
- June 14 ..... Andrea S.
- June 21 ..... OPEN
- June 28 ..... OPEN

**\*\* Speakers Subject to Change \*\***

If you're interested in talking at this Open Speaker Meeting, please contact **Brian S.** at (231) 715-6866.

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### AL-ANON/ALATEEN

#### District 39

coverage area includes:

Antrim, Benzie,  
Grand Traverse,  
Kalkaska, Leelanau  
& Manistee counties.

#### Al-Anon/Alateen

#### Family Groups - D39

PO Box 5132  
Traverse City, MI 49696



#### Information Line

(231) 938-7399  
Response within 24 Hours

#### Website

[www.alanon-d39.org](http://www.alanon-d39.org)

## *The CAMEL COURIER* is a FREE Publication

This monthly newsletter can be found online at District 11/Central Office's website: [www.district11-aa.org](http://www.district11-aa.org); copies can be picked up at Central Office; it should be available at most AA meeting locations in the District 11 area; and/or simply request to be placed on the list by emailing the Editor at [mthotis@aol.com](mailto:mthotis@aol.com).

# Alcohol Kills 1 Person Every 10 Seconds, Report Says

A new World Health Organization report released on Monday finds the dangerous consumption of alcohol led to 3.3 million deaths around the world in 2012 and that 16 percent of alcohol consumers take part in binge drinking

**D**angerous alcohol consumption was responsible for 3.3 million deaths worldwide in 2012, according to a new World Health Organization report Monday.

Harmful alcohol use not only leads to addiction, but it can put people at a higher risk of over 200 disorders like tuberculosis and pneumonia.

“This actually translates into one death every 10 seconds,” Shekhar Saxena, head of the WHO’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse department, told reporters in Geneva, *Global Post* reports.

On average, every person in the world age 15 and older drinks 6.2 liters of pure alcohol a year, according to the report. However, less than half the world’s population drinks any alcohol, which means people who do drink average about 17 liters of pure alcohol a year. Men are more likely than women to experience alcohol-related deaths—though drinking among women is on the rise—and low-income communities are at a greater risk for social and health complications related to alcohol, the report said.

The report shows that 16% of drinkers partake in binge drinking, which is the most dangerous form of alcohol consumption. Europe has the highest alcohol consumption per capita, though consumption levels have been stable there for the last five years. Consumption has remained stable in Africa and in the Americas, but it appears to be rising in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific regions, according to WHO. China is estimated to grow its per capita consumption by 1.5 liters of pure alcohol by 2025.

The WHO says it would like to see a voluntary global target of a 10% reduction in harmful alcohol use by 2025.

BY Alexandra Sifferlin • TIME • May 12, 2014

CONGRATULATIONS on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary !

# AA GRAPPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

★ ★

“ Now comes another lighted lamp --- this little newspaper called “The Grapevine”. May its rays of hope and experience ever fall upon the current of our A.A. Life and one day illumine every dark corner of this alcoholic world. ” -- Bill W., “Editorial.” © June 1944 © The Grapevine