

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2009

C.A. Spirit

RARELY HAVE WE SEEN A PERSON FAIL WHO HAS THOROUGHLY FOLLOWED OUR PATH

COCAINE ANONYMOUS OF WISCONSIN AREA, INC.

414.445-LIFE (5433) CAWISCONSIN.ORG

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #22

An Addict's Year in Reflection

This year is more than a celebration for me, it truly was an experience. For me, families were brought together, friends were made and lost (distrust is inevitable, yet shouldn't be). There were times of growth, times for tears, smiles and love shared. Caring and sharing were truly a joy. Time with my son who I texted saying "Sometimes I think to myself that maybe I could be a better father. Then I look at my life and can say I wish I had a father like me." With one reply, "When I grow up and have a child, I want to be as good a father as you." Which taught me that just doing the next right thing, is, the right thing to do.

There have been times of turbulence in this last year. Every time I turned around something else had happened whether there was a fire, truck repairs, moving, situations that have occurred with people around us, arguments within my house-hold and so much more. I myself am looking at the possibility of lay off today at the time we're moving to start a new life in a new year. These are called "Life on life's terms" and have found in myself "Faith".

This year is a celebration for me (this may sound weird) for I have found a higher power. Simply a person who we celebrate on Dec. 25th a person that was born this day to face life on life's terms also. He suffered among us and also made sacrifices for us (although greater than any other) with his life so we can be saved, from us. It's truly amazing to know that all I have to do is believe.

Today when I pray it's for all. All who are lost, at war, addicted, homeless, scared. All who are in love and/or alone. All who have found what I have and that's who I am, now, not the person I used to be. All who still seek, that when they find themselves they can enjoy the beauty I can find in them all. "That I can find" that in itself is an amazing statement for a man who once hated every one.

If I can ask for one wish for Christmas that would be for every one simply to, truly, get to know each other, to not be judgmental because of fear, race, gossip, arrogance or stature. For everyone to "Humbly" ask another "how are you?" To find peace within so they can find peace in another. To come together in prayer so we all can be saved!!!

With this being said, I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, New, YEAR!

-- Jonathan C.

We are always looking for submissions from members. If you have ideas, poems, stories, recovery humor or any special group related information that you would like to see in this publication, please send to: C.A. SPIRIT 9203 W. Blue Mound Rd. Suite A Milwaukee, WI 53226 or e-mail Sage, the C.A. Spirit editor: insidious_insanity@yahoo.com

**Submission Deadline for next issue:
February 6th, 2008**



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"The AA Big Book, AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, and the Hope Faith and Courage are used with Permission."

"In the spirit of Tradition 6: We are not allied with any sect denomination, politics, organization or institution".

Dear Addict,



It is hard to believe that people can really get their lives back on track after battling with addiction. Is there any evidence that this is possible?

Dear Anonymous,

Bill W. states in The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous that, "We commenced to make many fast friends and a fellowship has grown up among us of which it is a wonderful thing to feel a part. The joy of living we really have, even under pressure and difficulty. I have seen hundreds of families set their feet in the path that really goes somewhere; have seen the most impossible domestic situations righted; feuds and bitterness of all sorts wiped out. I have seen men come out of asylums and resume a vital place in the lives of their families and communities. Business and professional men have regained their standing. There is scarcely any form of trouble and misery which has not been overcome among us."

- The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous p. 15

Our World Service Conference approved books of Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Hope, Faith & Courage, and other C.A. literature is used to answer inquiries to this section of the C.A. Spirit newsletter - *Dear Addict*.

Opportunities for
GROWTH



Calendar of Upcoming Cocaine Anonymous Events

**2009 Wisconsin Area
Pre-Convention Fundraiser
Meeting & DJ Dance**

Date: January 10, 2009
Location: Pass It On Club
Speaker: 7:30pm
Dance: begins after the speaker meeting
Cost: \$6.00 Adults, \$3.00 H & I
Contact: Jim R. 414-379-3607

Look for the flyers at your meetings for more information on this event!

**13th Annual Wisconsin Area Convention
February 6, 7, 8 2009
Ambassador Inn At Marquette
"Embrace The Journey"**

Registration forms have more information and are available at all meetings!

**First Things First
25th Annual Anniversary
Open Speaker Meeting**

Monday February 23rd at 7:30pm
Aurora Dewey Center Auditorium

Join us for speakers, fellowship and food!

**Illinois Area CA Unity Convention
February 27th - March 1st, 2009
Westin Northwest Hotel
Wheeling, Illinois**

"Walk the Line"

Illinois and Wisconsin registration forms have more information and are available online at www.cawisconsin.org

Share your Group or Area Committee Events... For more information contact the C.A. Spirit Editor, Sage S. 414.526.0980 or e-mail at insidious_insanity@yahoo.com
Event flyers may be found at your C.A. home group literature table or on our web page: cawisconsin.org

Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven Steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect—unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

—*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 24*

Step Two: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

When I first looked at A.A., my reaction was just like yours. This A.A., business, I thought, is totally unscientific. This I can't swallow. I simply won't consider such nonsense.

Then I woke up. I had to admit that A.A., showed results, prodigious results. I saw that my attitude regarding these had been anything but scientific. It wasn't A.A., that had the closed mind, it was me. The minute I stopped arguing, I could begin to see and feel. Right there, Step Two gently and very gradually began to infiltrate my life. I can't say upon what occasion or upon what day I came to believe in a Power greater than myself, but I certainly have that belief now. To acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could.

This is only one man's opinion based on his own experience, of course. I must quickly assure you that A.A.'s tread innumerable paths in their quest for faith. If you don't care for the one I've suggested, you'll be sure to discover one that suits if only you look and listen.

—*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 27*

Awakening

By: Michael A.
Dated: 10-10-2008

Here I am, standing on my own for the first time.
Feeling on top of the world and lower than slime combined
Where does this come from? Where does it all start?
Why can I continue to fly and nose dive at the same time?
Will this ever end? Will I have a life without confusion?
Or is it the confusion that gives me the strength, an infusion?
Some crazy pick me up like Popeye's spinach, this infusion?
Some whacked out need for chaos to keep me *whole*, this infusion?
Some whacked out need for depression to have something to *fight* through.
Always gotta have an agenda, always gotta have a scheme, it seems to take
This loss of self to give me the sense that I've been reborn.

Here I am, standing on my own for the first time.
I'm standing on my own, but I am not alone, even though
I know this, it doesn't make life any easier.
Knowing that I'm not alone makes me struggle
I still feel weak. I feel incomplete.
I struggle with my desires to be in charge. I want it all and I want nothing.
I love and Oh do I hate. I feel loneliness and loathing.
Love still seems to bring me down.
There is no crown for this peasant.
There's no maiden, no duck no pheasant.
That's how fast I can regress.
From one sentence to the next.

Here I am standing on my own for the first time.
Having had this experience that sets me free.
Yet I cry inside sometimes **how can this be?**
Knowing what I know,
Living how I live,
Loving how I love,
Wanting what I want,
How can I stop the angst and rise above,
that which carries me to the void?
The void which leaves me at three,
Seeking that decision from the all knowing Tree.

Here I am standing on my own for the first time.
Wanting what I want
Loving how I love
Knowing what I know
I will do my best to live a life that is led,
guided, by maximum service to God and others.
I stand here on my own feet for the first time.
Having been led on by a love much greater than mine,
I have finally been set free.
What greater gift could there be?

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2009 Area Convention Planning Meeting 3pm 2010 World Convention Planning Meeting 5pm				Pre-Convention Chili Bake and Dance		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2009 Area Convention Planning Meeting 5pm						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2009 Area Convention Planning Meeting 5pm		ASC Meeting 7pm				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2009 Area Convention Planning Meeting 5pm						

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2009 Area Convention Planning Meeting 3pm 2010 World Convention Planning Meeting 5pm					WI Area Convention	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2009 WI Area Convention February 6, 7 & 8						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
ASC Meeting 7pm						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
First Things First 25th Annual Open Speaker Meeting 7:30pm				Illinois Area Convention Feb 27th - March 1st		

January and February Sobriety Clean Time Birthdays

Pete B.	1/01/99	10 years
Joe Z.	1/01/02	7 years
Kelly B.	1/04/90	19 years
Kevin M.	1/15/01	8 years
Sue W.	1/18/99	10 years
Frank M.	1/19/92	17 years
Lindsay A.	1/21/07	2 years



Robin K.	1/28/94	15 years
Erin B.	1/28/99	10 years
Tom W.	2/07/99	10 years
Jeff B.	2/15/89	20 years
Alford B.	2/17/00	9 years
Tom H.	2/17/91	18 years

Congratulations and Happy Birthday!!

Give a message of HOPE to the newcomer. Submit your sobriety/clean time anniversary to our Area's newsletter calendar! E-mail the editor: insidious_insanity@yahoo.com

Area Service

5:00 PM	Area Convention Committee / 2nd Sunday
6:00 PM	Delegate Committee / 1st Monday
2:00 PM	Unity Committee / 2nd Sunday
6:30 PM	G.S.R. Orientation Meeting / 3rd Tuesday
6:00 PM	Special Events Committee / 3rd Tuesday
6:00 PM	Treasurer Committee / 3rd Tuesday
6:00 PM	Finance Committee / 3rd Tuesday
6:30 PM	Internet Committee / 3rd Tuesday
7:00 PM	Area Service Committee Meeting / 3rd Tuesday
6:00 PM	H & I Committee / 1st Thursday

Open Positions: Co-Secretary, Alternate Delegate

See your group's G.S.R. for information regarding Area service opportunities.

Service Committee Meetings are held at:
C.A.W.A. Central Office
9203 W. Blue Mound Rd.
Suite A
Milwaukee, WI 53226



All C.A. members are WELCOME and encouraged to attend.