



# SHAREGUIDE

Elkhart County CSO Newsletter

1st Quarter 2013



## Welcome to the New Shareguide!

**THE SHAREGUIDE IS** getting a new start and a new look beginning in 2013. Welcome! to the 1st issue 2013. The Shareguide is financially supported by contributions to our Central Service Office located in Elkhart. The Elkhart **Central Service Office** serves Elkhart County: Elkhart, Goshen, Bristol, Nappanee, and the East section of Osceola. **The purpose of The Shareguide** is to share information and experience in recovery, unity, and service within the Elkhart area.

This is our first issue, so bare with us as we work through some bumps in our transition period. We welcome feature articles, stories, supporting articles, ideas, group histories, anniversaries, jokes, cartoons, upcoming events and activities that reflect an awareness of AA's singleness of purpose.

*Submissions will be reviewed by the newsletter committee and submitted to the editor publication.*

### Area Contact Info

**Central Service Office**  
949-1/2 Middlebury St  
Elkhart IN, 46516  
574-295-8188  
[aaelkhart.com](http://aaelkhart.com)

**TRI DISTRICT (91/93/95)**  
PO Box 254  
Elkhart, IN 46514

**Michiana CSO**  
818 E. Jefferson Blvd.  
South Bend, IN 46617  
574-234-7007  
[aa\\_michiana@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aa_michiana@sbcglobal.net)

**AREA 22 COMMITTEE**  
Northern Indiana  
PO Box 2282  
Hammond, IN 46323

**General Service Office**  
Grand Central Station  
PO Box 459  
New York, NY 10163-0459  
212-870-3400  
[aa.org](http://aa.org)

**Email:** [aashareguide@yahoo.com](mailto:aashareguide@yahoo.com)  
**Contact:** **Leslie L. - Editor (Committee –Benita J. & Steve G.)**  
**Drop off or Mail to:** Central Service Office (SPECIFY Shareguide submission)

## Yes, I heard it through the Grapevine..



**SOME ANTS MAKE IT!!** The February 2013 Issue of AA's Grapevine published a story submitted by our own *Dave W. of Elkhart*. Dave's homegroup meets Wednesday night (How it Works Group) at Serenity Hall. See your homegroup GSR, CSO, or GVR to read the article in the Grapevine.

If your group would like to receive a copy of the Grapevine go to [www.aagrapevine.org/GVR](http://www.aagrapevine.org/GVR). If you would like to submit an article send an email to: [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org).

*Happy Anniversary*

## To the Bristol Group for

The Bristol Group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 at the Rush Memorial Center in Bristol.



The Shareguide Statement of Purpose: The Shareguide is published for members of the A.A. Community in the Elkhart area. The Shareguide is financially supported by contributions to the Elkhart Area CSO. The purpose of the Shareguide is to share information and experience in recovery, unity and service within the Elkhart area. The articles published in the Shareguide are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either Elkhart Area CSO or A.A. as a whole.

## Upcoming Activities and Events

- February 24, 2013**  
 Sunday  
**Area 22 Assembly**– Community Center, 22y35 Main Street, Woodburn, IN  
 GSR's and DCM's are encouraged to attend. All members are welcome. (10am- 4pm)  
 Contact: Chad M., or Sam S.
- March 15 -17, 2013**  
 Friday - Sunday  
**60th Indiana State Convention (Assuming We Are Spiritually Fit)**  
 Clarion Hotel Conference Center - 2480 Jonathan Moore Pike - Columbus, IN  
*More info and registration forms available on line at [area22indiana.org](http://area22indiana.org)*
- April 26-28, 2013**  
 Friday - Sunday  
**33rd Annual Northeast Indiana Convention and 70th Annual Banquet**  
 AA & Al-Anon "Sobriety for All Ages"  
 Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN  
*More info and registration forms available on line at [area22indiana.org](http://area22indiana.org)*
- April 29, 2013**  
 Saturday  
**Fred C. Memorial Group** - 65th Birthday Celebration  
 Church of God - State Road 13 (Downtown), North Webster, IN  
 Carry-in Speaker Meeting (Bring a Dish to Share)  
 Doors Open: 6pm Dinner: 6:30 Speaker: 7:30 (Speaker Don M. - Louisville, KY)
- May 17-19, 2013**  
 Friday - Sunday  
**Service Weekend Assembly Area 22 (Northern Indiana)**  
 Camp Alexander Mack on Lake Wabee—Milford, IN  
**To promote better communication and carry the message of service**  
*More info and registration forms available on line at [area22indiana.org](http://area22indiana.org)*
- June 1, 2013**  
 Saturday  
**Tri District Event (Elkhart County)**  
**Breakfast in the Park** - Goshen Schrock Pavilion  
 More information and flyers to follow
- October 12, 2013**  
 Saturday  
**Michiana Conference - Crock Center, South Bend**  
 Karen B. will have more info to follow **(Mark your Calendars for October!!)**
- July 2-5, 2015**  
**AA International Convention 80 Years – Happy, Joyous, & Free**  
 Will be held in Atlanta, GA - More into and registration forms available on line at [aa.org](http://aa.org)

<p><b>Third Monday Each Month</b>  <b>Central Service Office Meeting</b>                  7:00 pm - Serenity Hall - Downstairs                  All Members of AA are welcome</p> <p><b>Fourth Monday of Each Month</b>  <b>Tri-District Meeting 91/93/95</b>                  6:30 pm - Serenity Hall - Downstairs                  GSR's &amp; DCM's are encouraged to attend</p> <p><b>March, 2013 - ALCOTHON</b>                  Watch for flyers on dates and info                  Contact Lyndi L.</p> <p><b>Spring 2013 - 5K RUN/WALK</b>                  Watch for flyers on dates and info</p>	<p><b>Last Saturday each Month</b>  <b>Celebration of Sober Birthdays for New Hope Group</b>                  8:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast &amp; Cake                  10:00 am - Regular Meeting</p> <p><b>Last Thursday each Month</b>  <b>Old Timers Luncheon</b>  <b>Grandmas House of Pancakes</b>                  In Dunlap at 11:00 am  <b>(All sober times welcome)</b></p> <p><b>Second Sunday Breakfast</b>  <b>11am-Noon at Serenity Hall</b>  <b>Hosted by Serenity Hall</b>                  Each month will have a theme                  Donation: Adults \$5/Children \$3</p>	<p><b>EVERY Saturday Night</b>  <b>Open Speaker Meeting</b>  <b>8:00 pm - Serenity Hall</b>                  Talk to your Home Group about hosting a month to provide speakers - Contact the CSO</p> 
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## Shareguide Featured Step

### Step 1

**“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our life 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 the 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 Pg. 24**

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A. and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us.



Most of us have been unwilling to admit we were real alcoholics. No person likes to think he is bodily and mentally different from his fellows. Therefore, it is not surprising that our drinking careers have been characterized by countless vain attempts

to prove we could drink like other people. The idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker. The persistence of this illusion is astonishing. Many pursue it into the gates of insanity or death.

We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery. The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed.

**Big Book Pg 30**

## I am powerless - utterly powerless over alcohol -

When I came back into AA, I knew that I was crazy. I was well familiar with what it is to be powerless and that my life had become unmanageable, but I just couldn't ascribe it all to alcohol. My new sponsor asked me, "Do you believe that you are an alcoholic and that you can never safely drink again?" I was not sure I believed that.

He suggested that I write down – make a list – of all the ways that I was powerless over alcohol and to cite all the instances of unmanageability in my life. I did it. I remember sitting on my mother's driveway with a notepad (hint: living at your mom's at age 48 is quite often a sign of unmanageability). When I had written it all down, I met my sponsor after a meeting at Serenity Hall. I read it all to him and he asked a few questions.

Getting in the car and driving away, it hit me: I am powerless – utterly powerless – over alcohol and my life was a complete mess due to my inability to stop drinking. For years there were glaring signs that my life was becoming unmanageable, but this exercise let me see it in black and white. By this admission, I had successfully completed Step One, the guiding principle of which is Honesty. *(submitted by: Steve G., Elkhart)*

## Area Business - Is your group connected to AA as a whole?

**CSO Elections** for the CSO Board took place on Monday, February 18th. The results are published below. If you would like to give back to AA by becoming involved in AA in our area, please contact a Board or Committee Member.

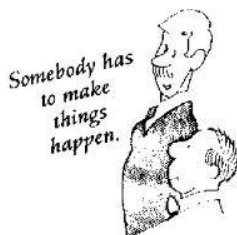
**CONGRAGULATIONS!!!  
...AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

**CSO Board Members (Election Results)**

Chairperson - Connie Joe W.  
Co-Chairperson - Rachel R.  
Secretary - Cindy M.  
Treasurer - Lyndi L.

**Elected Committee Members**

Tom G.  
Robin B.  
Steve G.  
Tracy F.



**CSO Website:** [www.aaelkhart.com](http://www.aaelkhart.com)  
**CSO email:** [csoelkhart@aaelkhart.com](mailto:csoelkhart@aaelkhart.com)  
**Shareguide email:** [aashareguide@yahoo.com](mailto:aashareguide@yahoo.com)

**CSO Office Hours & Operation**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 3pm - 7pm  
Saturday - 11am - 3pm  
**Volunteers** - Connie Jo W. & Jerry R.  
**Office Manager** (special worker) - Alice B.



**Area GSR's (Currently Represented)**

Jay P. - New Hope Group  
Les B. - Sunshine Group  
Leslie L. - How it Works Group  
Matthew M. - Bristol Group  
Shana D. - Sobriety & Beyond  
Karen K. - Eye Opener

**Did AA Save Your Life?  
GET INVOLVED!!**

**Area CSO's (Currently Represented)**

Robin B. - How it Works Group  
Val C. - New Hope Group

**Tri District Service Reps:**

District 91 Rep - Vacant  
District 93 Rep - Chad M. & Sam S.  
District 95 Rep - Dennis T.

**Area Recovery Halls and Alano-Clubs**

The following information is printed in cooperation of 12 Step Recovery. They are they not endorsed, financed or affiliated with Elkhart Area CSO or AA as a whole.

Halls & Clubs sometime hold meetings several times a day. Check the hours and meeting times of your club. They can be safe places to hang out when the going gets rough.

**Serenity Hall**

949 Middlebury Street, Elkhart (574-522-7492)  
Janelle R. (Board President)  
Jeannie S. (Kitchen Staff)

**Freedom Hall**

2513 Eddy Street, Elkhart (574-293-3871)  
Lois J (Board President)

**Stepping Stones**

305 W. Franklin Street, Elkhart, IN



## Financial Report

*Due to space considerations, the Financial Report will be printed as a summary. Moving forward, members can download a full report from our website at [aaelkhart.com](http://aaelkhart.com), or by visiting the CSO in Elkhart. Financial Report Summary will be printed quarterly in the Shareguide for the previous quarter. Attached is the full report submitted at the CSO Meeting on February 18, 2013.*



**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR HOMEGROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND CSO MEETINGS**

**A Declaration of Unity** This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives; And the lives of those to come.