

Straight Talk

A publication of Fairview Riverside AA
U of M Medical Center

Meeting
Listings
Inside

Visit us online
<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>

March—April 2017

I Don't Have To Stop Drinking!

By: totallee
From the Experience Project
Written on February 26th, 2013

I don't HAVE to stop drinking. The court can't make me. I drank before when ordered not to. There is nothing that would stop me from drinking if I wanted to. I could buy a bottle or go to the refrigerator and grab one of Dad's beers (or two, or...). Many of the people there have been hospitalized for what drinking has done to their bodies, they know that if they drink they will die. But, as my friend demonstrated last month (suicide), death won't stop you either if you want to drink.

I don't want to drink. I don't care if you want to or not. I don't. That simple. I also don't have to feel shame for being an alcoholic. I don't have to lie. I don't have to feel bad for breaking promises. I don't have to let myself down.

There was a time not to long ago I couldn't even imagine not drinking. Now, I can't think of any reason why I would want to drink. That much has changed, and I think it is a good change!

I don't go to meetings because the court said that I have to go to two a week. I go because I really enjoy them. I go to as many as I can, (more than two a week usually). I enjoy being around people that have been through as much and often much more than I have, and they tell me it gets better. They tell me that I don't have to drink, even though I could. I am living proof that it does get better! Over these last nine months or so my life has drastically improved. Is everything the way I want it? No, but that is okay. It is getting better everyday. Why would I want to drink that away?

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.” Les Brown

Could It Be Different?

*If I were to drink again, could it be different?
Or maybe drugs...
maybe I could use a reasonable amount now,
not too much like before.*

*I feel like I have everything under control now,
at least most of the time.
Things are not at all like they were before.*

*If I can handle the rest of it this well,
maybe it would be different.
But maybe it's because I don't use,
that things are going this well.*

*But still, could it be different?
Is it worth finding out?*



**NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS FACED
CAN BE CHANGED.
BUT NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED
UNTIL IT IS FACED.**

JAMES BALDWIN

"I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN SOBRIETY"



The Four Absolutes

(From a booklet distributed by Cleveland Central Committee of AA, date unknown.)

Spelled out as such, the Four Absolutes are not a formal part of our AA philosophy of life. ... The Absolutes were borrowed from the Oxford Group Movement back in the days when our society was in its humble beginning. In those days our founders and their early colleagues were earnestly seeking for any and all sources of help to define and formulate suggestions that might guide us in the pursuit of a useful, happy, and significant sober life.

Because the Absolutes are not specifically repeated in our Steps or Traditions, some of us are inclined to forget them. Yet in many old time groups where the solid spirit of our fellowship is so strongly exemplified, the Absolutes receive frequent mention. Indeed, you often find a set of old placards, carefully preserved, which are trotted out for prominent display each meeting night.

There could be unanimity on the proposition that living our way of life must include not only an awareness but a constant striving toward greater achievement in the qualities which the Absolutes represent. Many who have lost the precious gift of sobriety would ascribe it to carelessness in seeking these objectives. If you will revisit the Twelve Steps with care, you will find the Four Absolutes form a thread which is discernible in a sober life of quality, every step of the glorious journey.

The Four Absolutes

Honesty.....Unselfishness.....Love.....Purity

Visit us online ... <http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>

Powerless

*The man who wears a tattered mask
The lonely choose to wear
Is chained to his addiction
And is trapped by the poison's snare*

*He hides beneath the alcohol
That covers up his pain
He can not find the strength to quit
So his cowardice remains*

*His guilt begins to haunt him
Voices travel through his head
He knows his troubled conscience
Is just hanging by a thread*

*The echoes of his weary past
And the voice of his today
Keep telling him, "put down the drink
And choose a better way"*

*That faith filled voice of wisdom
He's heard several times before
He just never found the courage
To walk through those AA doors*

*But this time he will listen
Because he knows that he must quit
He swallows hard, makes that first step
"I'm powerless..." he admits*

*He feels the peace around him
That envelops his heart and soul
He's found the strength he needs now
To let his guilty conscience go*

*He no longer needs his tattered mask
He'll never be alone again
If he chooses our fellowship
AA is where loneliness ends*

*Our work, it is not easy
But there's no easier softer way
It takes the God of your understanding
And His power to guide your way*

By Jodi P., Fridley AA Squad 17

Join us for a
Speaker Meeting

Brennan Center
East Building
Sunday @ 7:15pm

AA
Sunday
Night



The General Meeting on Sunday nights @ 7:15pm is looking for **Trusted Servants** who will help set up and facilitate this Speakers Meeting. If interested, please contact us at feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

12-step Opportunities



Fairview Riverside AA – U of M Medical Center

To keep the program, we must give it away!

General Meeting – Sunday speakers –
7:15pm – Brennan Center – East Building

AA Wing Meeting – Saturdays – 6:30pm –
5th Floor Treatment Center – Cafeteria

Fairview Riverside – U of M Detox Center – Sundays – 8:30pm

Annual Gopher State Round Up – AA Hospitality Suite – Memorial Day Weekend - Double Tree Hilton Hotel

We need your help! !! Fun Food Fellowship!
For more information, please email
Fairview Riverside Board of Trustees at
feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

Visit us online

<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>



GOPHER STATE ROUNDUP XLIV

MAY 26, 27 & 28, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
7800 Normandale Boulevard,
Bloomington, MN 55439

SPECIAL \$99 Room Rates

Book your room NOW to get this special rate of **ONLY \$99!** go to: www.gopherstateroundup.org click on the “**Room Reservations**” link.

- Enjoy 70+ Hospitality Suites many with **FREE** food and beverages!
- Park once when you arrive and not have worries about finding a parking spot the rest of the weekend!
- Experience the entire weekend: Don't miss any of the A.A. and AI-Anon speakers; Check out an Alternative Language Meeting; Visit the A.A. Archives; Stay up late with our Room to Grow Meetings.
- Take a little down time at the Roundup without missing the ballroom speakers... watch on closed circuit TV from the privacy of your hotel room!
- Register now at www.gopherstateroundup.org to get the pre-registration rate of **ONLY \$17**. On-site \$20.

www.gopherstateroundup.org

Fun Facts!

- Gopher State Roundup's attendance in 2016 was **7,069**.
- Gopher State Roundup takes **500+** volunteers to make the weekend happen.
- Gopher State Roundup has been at the same location for **43** years.
- Gopher State Roundup has **speakers from all over the country**.
- Gopher State Roundup is a Non-Profit Organization. All excess funds go to the service entities, to **carry the message**.

7th Tradition

Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully Self-Supporting

Trustees Financial Report Summary

November/December 2016

Sq. 1	\$2	Expenses:	\$ 863.15
Sq. 2	\$87		
Sq. 3	\$16	Closing	
Sq. 9	\$93	Balance:	\$2,355.86
Sq. 20	\$213		
Sq. 32	\$33		
Sq. 43	\$28		
Sq. 47	\$110		
Sq. 57	\$71;		

Sq. 70 \$46; GM \$154 = **TOTAL: \$853**



U of M Medical Center Fairview Meeting Listings

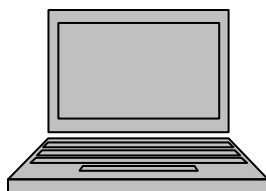
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Day	Group	Time	Location
Monday	3	5:30pm	East Bldg - Dining Room E
	43	7pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG48
Tuesday	57/36	1pm	West Bldg - Fifth Floor F571
	62	7pm	Bethany Lutheran Church—Franklin Avenue @ 25th Avenue
	9	8pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG42
Wednesday	32	5:30pm	East Bldg - MB114 (Dining Room F)
	20	7pm	West Bldg - 5th Floor F541
	71	7:30pm	West Bldg - 5th Floor F572 (signing meeting- American Sign Language only)
Friday	46	7pm	East Bldg-MB114 (Dining Room F)
	70	8:30pm	North Bldg/Ground Level-NG42
Saturday	1	8pm	East Bldg/Brennan Center
Sunday	47	5:30pm	East Bldg-MB114 (Dining Room F)
	General Meeting	7:15pm	East Bldg/Brennan Center
	2	8:30pm	East Bldg /Brennan Center
Trustees		2nd Sunday each month	6:15pm East Bldg/Brennan Center lobby

Monthly Treasurer's & Secretary's Reports on website

Visit us online

<http://www.aafairviewriverside.org/>



Trustees

Bruce M. – Sq. 62
Lynn – Sq. 1
Stephanie F.-General Meeting
Jim M. – Sq. 70
Patrick R. – Sq. 47

Looking for Reps from:
Sq. 2 Sq. 3 Sq. 9 Sq. 20 Sq. 32 Sq. 43
Sq. 46 Sq. 57/36 Sq. 71

Please send a representative from your Squad!

People who don't go to meetings aren't there to see what happens to people who don't go to meetings.

• Is your group not listed? Is it listed incorrectly?

* Squad 1—**Grapevine Meeting**, do you have something you want to share in Straight Talk??? Let us know!

Please leave a note with any changes or your writing submission in:

AA group #70 mailbox—located in the **West Building — Room F538..**