

Straight Talk

A publication of Fairview Riverside AA
U of M Medical Center

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

September - October 2017

By Robert B., Harlan, Iowa - From AA Grapevine

How Long Is Forever?

The problem I had, when Judge Lee sent me to AA in 1975 as an alternative to jail time, was that I was not an alcoholic. I proved it by staying sober for most of the ninety-day sentence. During which time I took my little card to be signed at AA meetings on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I presented my signed card to Judge Lee's clerk and took my supervised dose of Antabuse. A couple of tries at drinking while on Antabuse had convinced me to stay off the booze. I knew that if I really wanted to quit, I could stop in a heartbeat. But I didn't want to quit drinking. I loved the smell of whiskey, the way it burned going down, the way I felt when I was getting drunk. I wasn't fond of some of the results... waking up in strange places with strange ladies, coming out of a blackout and not knowing where I was, or seeing bars on the door and not remembering how I got to jail. I was not an alcoholic; never mind what my ex-wives had said when they left me, never mind not having held a job for an entire year for the previous twenty years, and never mind the number of jails I had visited for various periods of time. There may be a worse combination than a head full of AA and a belly full of booze, but I can't imagine what it could be. Since being an alcoholic was unacceptable, I introduced myself at meetings as a visitor sent by Judge Lee. When they told me to keep coming back, I assured everyone I would do just that, three times a week for three months. I even stayed sober for ten days after my time was up, just to prove I could (that, and to make sure that nasty Antabuse was out of my system). But the folks in those meetings messed up my drinking. There may be a worse combination than a head full of AA and a belly full of booze, but I can't imagine what it could be. This sorry condition lasted almost five years. In and out of AA. Build up a bright future and destroy it with another senseless series of sprees. Another jail. Another flop. Another sweet relationship destroyed. Another excellent opportunity lost. Again and again. Does this sound familiar? ...

The Essence of a New Day

This is the beginning of a new day.

You have been given this day to use it as you will.

You can waste it or you can use it for good.

What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever;

in its place will be something you have left behind.

So, let it be something good...

AA and Your Higher Power.

Author Unknown

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
If interested, please contact us at
feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

I finally decided I had had enough. I quit drinking forever. But "forever" lasted only nine days. "Forever" was followed by a six-month bender. "Forever" finally smashed the illusion that I was not an alcoholic. If I had known that day in April 1980 that the drink I took to stop the shakes was to be my last drink, I might have paid more attention to the date. I might have known the exact date of my sobriety birthday. Probably not. I was convinced that I was one of those unfortunates constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves, that I could never achieve lasting sobriety, that I would live a thousand years... one more jail, one more flop, one more dream shattered. I bought a Big Book and studied it. I worked the Steps to the best of my ability. I went to meetings and listened. I knew I would get drunk again; it was only a matter of time. ...

"I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN SOBRIETY"

Founder's Day Weekend 2017

November 24, 25 & 26, 2017

Celebrating 77 Years of AA in the Upper Midwest
and Honoring AA Members With One Year of Sobriety!

Register Online at: [www.FOUNDERSDAYMN.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSDAYMN.org)

Friday, November 24	
4:00 PM	Registration Opens
7:00 PM	History of AA in the Upper Midwest Dick C. (Orono, MN)
9:00 PM	*AA Speaker: Georgia B. (Los Angeles, CA)
Saturday, November 25	
10:30 AM	Panel of Weekend Speakers
1:00 PM	AA Open Call-Up Meeting
1:00 PM	Al-Anon Open Meeting
3:00 PM	*Al-Anon Speaker: Chris C. (Temecula, CA)
6:00 PM	Banquet
7:30 PM	*AA Speaker: Doug R. (Los Angeles, CA)
9:00 PM	Dance
Sunday, November 26	
9:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	*AA Speaker: Bart R. (Stuart, FL)

*These meetings are ASL Interpreted

Pre-Registration \$15.00
At the Door \$18.00

Registration required and must be paid to attend Founder's Day Weekend events.

Banquet (Limited Seating) \$39.00
The Banquet begins at 6:00 pm Saturday evening.

Breakfast \$20.00
The Breakfast begins at 9:00 am Sunday morning. Theatre seating will be provided at 9:45am for the Speaker Meeting.

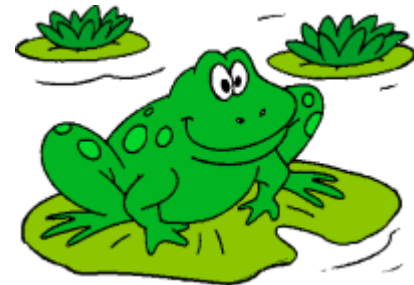
Big Book Study & Action Seminar
Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Founder's Day Weekend Dance
Saturday 9:00 pm

Activities and Accommodations at
DoubleTree Bloomington - Minneapolis South - Bloomington, MN
7800 Normandie Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55439 • 952.835.7800 or 800.222.8733

Special Room Rates are available with early reservations.
Please make reservations directly with the DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel.
Indicate they are for Founder's Day Weekend.

But doing those things could maybe postpone it for a while. I got a minimum wage job, then a better job. A year passed. Two. I felt no obsession to drink, but sometimes I would wonder when I would get drunk again, knowing it would come eventually. I went to meetings. I worked the Steps. Three years passed. Four. At five years sober, I began to think maybe this thing would work for me. I even considered getting one of those chips for my fifth year of sobriety. Nah. I knew I was going to get drunk again, I just didn't know when the obsession would return. Sometime between five and six years sober I came to believe that some power had truly solved my problem, just like the book promised. I still go to meetings and work the Steps. Drinking has not been an option for many years. The obsession to drink has been removed, and for that I am eternally grateful. Eternally grateful, not forever grateful. "Forever", after all, is only nine days.



Frogs In the Woods

A number of frogs were traveling through the woods. Two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored them and tried to jump out with all their might. The other frogs kept yelling stop! that the pit was too deep and they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the crowd was saying and gave up. He fell down and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was very hard of hearing. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

Author Unknown

He Said, She Said

He said... Do you love me just because my father left me a fortune?

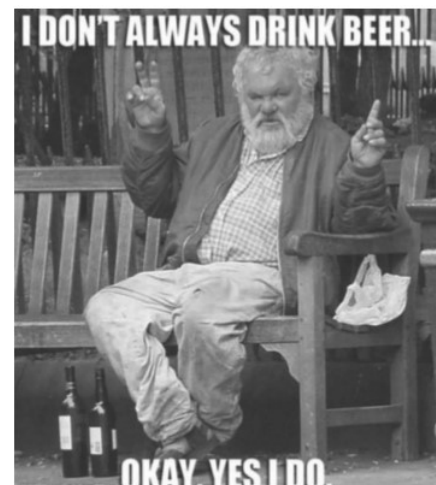
She said... Not at all honey, I would love you no matter who left you the money.

He said... Why do you women always try to impress us with your looks, not with your brains?

She said... Because there is a bigger chance that a man is a moron than he is blind.

He said... Let's go out and have some fun tonight.

She said... Okay, but if you get home before I do, leave the hallway light on.



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Fond Memories

During their anniversary, a wife reminded her husband: "Do you remember when you proposed to me, I was so overwhelmed that I didn't talk for an hour?" The husband replied: "Yes, honey, that was the happiest hour of my life."

New Math

The owner of a golf course was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his secretary for some mathematical help. He called her into his office and said, "You graduated from college and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?" The secretary thought a moment, then replied, "Everything but my earrings."

*Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated.
You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.
David Lloyd George*



Heard At Meetings

I was always the black sheep of the family. Then I joined AA and found the rest of the herd.
By C.W., from Iowa

A lot of times I blacked out. The rest I don't remember.
By Andy, Pearland, Texas



Additional Meetings at U of M Medical Center

DAY	GROUP	TIME	LOCATION
		ACA ACOA	
Monday	10	8:00pm	North Bldg—NG22
Tuesday	4	9:00pm	North Bldg—NG22
		Al-Anon	
Monday	36	7:00pm	North Bldg—NG23
Tuesday	33	7:00pm	Bethany Lutheran Church Franklin Ave @ 25th Ave CA
Wednesday		8:30pm	West Bldg-5th Floor Lec- ture Hall
		GA	
Sunday		7:00pm	East Bldg-MB114
		NA	
Friday		8:00pm	East Bldg—Brennan Cen.
		OA	
Monday		4:45pm	East Bldg-MB114
		WA	
Wednesday		11:30am	East Bldg-Dining Rm E
		Opiates Anonymous	
Thursday		8:00pm	West Bldg—Floor 5 #557

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 115—Memorial Day Weekend -

For more information, please email
Fairview Riverside Board of Trustees
at

feedback@aafairviewriverside.org

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7th Tradition

*Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully Self-Supporting
Trustees Financial Report*

Summary

May 2017

Sq. 1	\$14	Expenses:	\$ 1,017.82
Sq. 2	\$24		
Sq. 9	\$39	Closing	
Sq. 20	\$100	Balance:	\$ 1,628.64
Sq. 43	\$18		
Sq. 47	\$38		
Sq. 51	\$20		
Sq. 57	\$57		



Sq. 62 \$160; Sq. 70 \$25; GM \$73; Hope Richfield \$140; Gopher State contribs \$290 = TOTAL: \$998

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)
	51	8:15pm	North Bldg/Ground Level NG42 (Big Book Meeting)
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

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Trustees

Bruce M. – Sq. 62
Lynn – Sq. 1
Stephanie F.- General Meeting
Jim M. – Sq. 70
Patrick R. – Sq. 47
John M.—General Meeting
Kyle W.—Sq. 2

Looking for Reps from:

Sq. 3 Sq. 9 Sq. 20 Sq. 32 Sq. 43 Sq. 46
Sq. 51 Sq. 57/36 Sq. 71

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?

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

AA group #70 mailbox—located in the West Building — Room F537