

Kent County Central Office

4920 Plainfield Ave. NE, Ste. 19 - Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Office Phone (616) 913-9216 - Website: www.grandrapidsaa.org

AA 24-hour Hotline (616) 913-9149

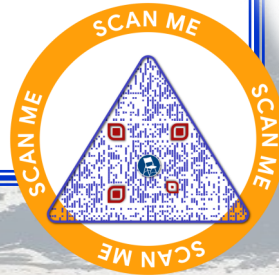
OFFICE HOURS

Monday 2:00PM to 6:00PM / Tuesday through Friday 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

HAPPY!
JOYOUS!
FREE!
July
2026

NEED TO FIND A MEETING?

Scan the QR Code at right, or
go to the AA meetings listing at
www.grandrapidsaa.org/meetings



Upcoming Events

HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

District 7 Business Meeting

Saturday, July 11

Host: Ionia Noon Group

910 E. Lincoln Ave., Ionia, MI

9 a.m. District Committee Members

10 a.m. Business Meeting

Cookout & Fun Time following
business meeting!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Friday Evening Speaker Meetings

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

7 p.m., North Alano Club (See Flyer)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

KCCO Business Meeting

Thursday, July 16

6:00 p.m., KCCO/ZOOM

(For ZOOM sign-in, contact KCCO.)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Area 34 Assembly

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.

See area34aa.org for details.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank You

**TO ALL GROUP &
INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR
YOUR GENEROUS GIVING TO
KENT COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE!
WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!**

Into The Light

Friday Night Speaker's Meeting

Ionia Noon Group

Kent County Central Committee Business Meeting

Happy Hour at St. Stephens

..AND TO ALL WHO DONATED VIA PAYPAL

Focus On Literature

Freedom – Grapevine Article

February 1980 by D.H.

BEGINNINGS are always exciting but not always clearly perceived at the time. That is the way it was with my beginnings in AA. As I approach the entrance to my twentieth year of sobriety, I am embarked on an odyssey of discovery and rediscovery of those beginnings. Visit with me awhile; together, maybe we can bring into sharper focus some of your beginnings, too.

Tucked away in Chapter 6 of *Alcoholics Anonymous* are eleven "extravagant promises." The first says, "We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness."

Our co-founder Bill W. wrote about freedom in an article published in the Grapevine in 1960. That was the year of AA's silver anniversary. "In its deeper sense, AA is a quest for freedom – freedom under God," Bill wrote. "Of course, the immediate object of our quest is sobriety – freedom from alcohol and from all its baleful consequences. Without this freedom, we have nothing at all."

One of my first big revelations came when I identified with what speakers described as their bitter longing for freedom in their drinking days. That same longing for freedom had dogged all the years of my drinking, too. What a relief to find out that others had lived in that same box of space and time. They, too, had been powerless to fight their way out. But now they were free. *And so was I.*

I had no identity that I could describe as my own when I was drinking. It was only through stolen identities that I knew what I thought was freedom. But once invested with someone else's identity (and someone else's freedom), I had to keep drinking to hold on to it. I had to get very drunk to get very free!

By and by, the idea of freedom grew murky. I wanted to be free of having to listen to the hopes and aspirations of loved ones. I wanted to be free of the body that bound me to the earth. Finally, I drank for that most merciful of freedoms, oblivion.

Since I came into the Fellowship, there have been countless, constructive freedoms made known to me. It would take a special issue of the Grapevine to itemize them. To list a few: AA freed me so that I could find my own identity and become myself; it freed me from the inescapable allure of escape itself; it freed me from the fear of growing up. AA freed me, eventually, from my long and deadly romance with oblivion.

There is another major freedom, which does not come for some of us until long after the freedom from alcohol. It is the release from the obsession with alcohol. For me, these two freedoms were granted simultaneously. The obsession that had driven me by daylight and by dark was snatched from me at the height of my last drunk. The impact of those twin freedoms was so overwhelming that I was barely able to cope with it. On top of that, intellectual arrogance made coping even harder.

But what about happiness – the "new happiness" that the Big Book talks about? Did you notice that the book doesn't say we will *find* it? It says that we will *know* it. Could it be that a state of happiness might come about through osmosis instead of through high adventure?

"I'm sober now," I used to exclaim. "When am I going to get happy?" I thought AA would grant me the kind of happiness that I imagined was inherent in fame or wealth or romance. But none of that came my way.

My new happiness proved to have very little to do with worldliness. It turned out to be a by-product of simply doing what I was supposed to be doing as a sober member of society at large. Without my realizing it, my strong sense of gratitude to AA was automatically generating a sense of happiness that was already pervading my whole being in much the same way that hopelessness had done before. It was a slow process. Emotionally, I was a whiner. I continued to resist the grace of happiness, even though it was the one thing I wanted most, next to sobriety itself.

That brings me to still another freedom, the freedom from denial of myself. By staying away from one drink for one day at a time, I made it possible to accept myself as a worthy and deserving person. In what ways? Socially, sexually, professionally, and just plain, everyday me. As it says in Chapter 5, "What an order!" – except that, in this case, I positively *can* go through with it. With lots of help, of course.



What's YOUR "Freedom from Bondage" Story?

We all have a story. Will you share yours?

Stories can be submitted to our Newsletter Editor
at: newsletter@grandrapidsaa.org

Meetings EVERYWHERE!

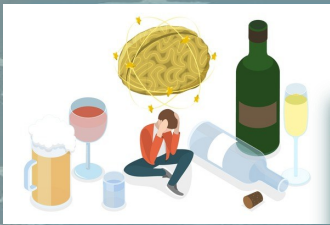


You can access and download *MEETING GUIDE* app using the *QR Code* on page one of this newsletter.

KCCO continues to edit those meetings in our meeting directory that are currently listed as inactive.

Please check the meetings you attend on the directory at: www.grandrapidsaa.org/meetings

If your group DOES meet and you are listed as "In-active," please contact us at officeadmin@grandrapidsaa.org and we will update your listing. Only meetings currently listed as "In-Active" will be deleted from the database.



**24/7 SUPPORT
HOTLINE**

616-913-9149

We're here to help.

I'm not okay.

I'm here, and
I'm listening.

Is A.A. for you? Only you can decide. If you are unsure, we are happy to share with you how we stopped drinking, ourselves. Just call our **Hotline**. ♥

We can show you how taking some simple steps can help loosen the grip that alcohol has on your life. The first step is to reach out and ask for help. This can be done by attending an AA meeting. If you are unsure or have questions, call the 24 hour hotline. Making that call will put you in touch with an AA member that can answer your questions and point you in the right direction.

12 x 12 x 12

STEP SEVEN

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

TRADITION SEVEN

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

CONCEPT SEVEN

"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness."

A.A.'s Twelve Steps are principles for personal recovery. The Twelve Traditions ensure the Unity of the Fellowship. Written by co-founder Bill W. in 1962, the Twelve Concepts for World Service provide a group of related principles to help ensure that various elements of A.A.'s service structure remain responsive and responsible to those they serve.

meeting spotlight

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THESE GROUPS

Women's Meeting

Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m. (Big Book study)
North Alano Club, 1020 College Ave., Grand Rapids

Portland Group

Sundays (Open) & Thursdays (Closed Step Mtg.)
@ 7:30 p.m. Friday @ 5:30 p.m. (Open Big Book Mtg.)
Mt. Hope Church, 845 Ionia Rd., Portland

Second Chance Alano Club

Open Meetings, Monday through Friday @ 12:00 noon
(Mon.: 12/12; Tues.: Women; Wed.: Living Sober;
Thurs.: Grapevine; Fri.: Open Discussion)
1000 Muskegon NW, Grand Rapids

Comstock Park Group

Open Meeting, Fridays at 7:30pm
Closed Meetings, Mondays & Thursdays (12/12 Study) @ 7:30pm
Grace Fellowship Church, 735 Buth Dr. NE, Comstock Park

Downtown Promises Group

Open Meetings, Monday through Thursday @ 12:05pm
(Thursdays: Book Study format, Big Book/12 & 12)
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St., NE, Grand Rapids

Easy Does It Group

Open Meeting, Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m.
Home Acres Reformed Church, 21 Murray St., SE, Kentwood

What is "Meeting Spotlight"?

Is your group looking to increase participation? Looking to get the word out of the availability of its meeting? KCCO can help! If you would like your group featured in "Meeting Spotlight", please submit your group's meeting details and any information you would like us to share, to: newsletter@grandrapidsaa.org.

FIRE Up Your Sobriety

July 4th is a holiday that is definitely associated with drinking. Although the main attraction is the fireworks show every year, the events leading up to the fireworks and what happens after is what usually causes all the problems. Drinking alcohol as a social lubricant or to enhance the fireworks can make July 4th deceptively seem like a holiday to get lit.

What really happens for someone addicted to alcohol is that they get wasted, blacked out, and passed out, often ruining everyone's time. While July 4th may seem like a good reason to drink, staying sober is an even better idea. Here are some of the reasons why July 4th and recovery are similar in hopes of getting you fired up in your sobriety.

July 4th Represents Freedom

Being in remembrance of all the soldiers who fought so hard for our country, in the name of freedom, should motivate you to fight for your recovery. You deserve to be sober, and your sobriety will not come without being fought for. To become free from alcohol, you will need to be aware that there is no cure for alcoholism, and willpower is challenging to maintain.

You will be in constant combat with the obsession of the mind and the allergy of the body that embodies your alcoholic addiction. To gain freedom from the insidiousness of alcoholism, you will have to fight for your sobriety every day. Going to recovery meetings, asking for help, working the 12-Steps, attending therapy, and many other aspects of recovery will need to be put into action.

July 4th Represents Tradition

1776 was the year that the United States of America gained its freedom from Great Britain, on July 4th. For centuries, Independence Day has been celebrated to commemorate this incredible feat in U.S. history. Recovery has its own tradition with Alcoholics Anonymous starting in 1935, which has pretty much been kept intact since the program was defined.

Other programs have also been born from the initial 12-Step modality that has been instrumental in getting millions of people sober using a 12-Step program. Decades of recovery have been achieved through the suggestions that are made by those who have gone before and are still relevant today.

July 4th Represents Celebration

The observance of July 4th gives people a chance to observe the freedom that has been bestowed onto them. Each year, celebrations are held to honor those who fought for our freedom and to continuously inspire those who still are. Those in recovery also celebrate milestones along the way to keep them inspired to stay sober. Recognizing lengths of sobriety with a one-day-at-a-time mentality is one of the ways everyone roots for one another as a source of recovery comradery.

It is important to recognize each other for getting sober because staying sober is out of the ordinary for someone who suffers from alcohol addiction. Banding together in the name of freedom from alcohol will create the fellowship that you crave.

July 4th Represents Union

The celebration of this holiday also brings about fellowship with other proud Americans. Waving American flags and

watching incredible fireworks shows can bond strangers together based on liberty and freedom for all. Similarly, recovery is all about bonding strangers together with the same common peril. One person sharing with another person about how they stayed sober is vital to carry the message to one another.

No one could ever understand alcoholism the way you do unless they have struggled with it themselves. The fellowship among people with this common addiction has proven that strength comes in numbers, just like the soldiers who fought for our country.

July 4th Represents Abstinence

Although many people like to party and get intoxicated to celebrate this fun holiday, you can decide how you will view July 4th ongoing. The symbolism of how our country gained its freedom should never be taken away. How you use the fortitude of this day, can proclaim how abstinence gave you the courage to take the next indicated step into a new freedom for your recovery.

Others may continue to consume alcohol on July 4th, but now you have your own conception of observing the holiday with complete abstinence. You will actually get more out of July 4th being sober because you will authentically show your patriotism without alcohol in your system. You will wake another day sober, and have the ability to remember why this holiday is so important.

With July 4th signifying U.S. independence, you can take this day to be thankful for the liberty that the day brings. Being free from alcohol on this special day in the history of the United States will show you how special your sobriety truly is so that you will be on fire for your recovery. As each firework shoots into the sky, you can thank your lucky stars that you are sober another day in the land of the free.

<https://www.valiantliving.com/2020/07/04/how-to-make-july-4th-fire-up-your-sobriety/#:~:text=The%20observance%20of%20July%204th,inspire%20those%20who%20still%20are.>

JOIN US! JULY BUSINESS MEETING

July 16th, at 6:00 p.m. at the KCCO.

For ZOOM sign-in codes, contact the office.

We invite you to consider sobriety-enhancing service work in one of the highlighted roles below.

**KENT COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE
THANK YOU to Our Trusted Servants**

Mike W. (Bach) - Office Manager
Doug P. - Assistant Office Manager
Dwayne N. - Committee Chairperson
Vacant - Committee Vice-Chairperson
Vacant - Committee Secretary
Shelly W. - Committee Trustee 1/Treasurer
Mike W. - Committee Trustee 2
Dave P. - Committee Trustee 3
Toni M. - Literature
Vacant: Social Media
Jeff O. - Webmaster
Christ Best - Web Assistant
Toni M. - Newsletter Editor
Sandee C. - Committee Member
Beth B. - KCCO Liaison; Amy H. - Alternate
Vacant - YPAA Liaison

NOW HIRING: KCCC Office Manager

The KCCC Office Manager oversees the daily operations of the Kent County Central Committee, a 501(c)(3) organization serving AA groups in Area 34 / District 7. This position supports vital services, manages office operations, maintains financial records, and serves as a key liaison to the AA community.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

24-Hour AA Hotline

- Answer hotline calls during office hours.
- Train and support volunteer hotline responders.
- Coordinate with the contracted after-hours answering service.
- Maintain updated volunteer contact lists and procedures.
- Provide monthly hotline performance reports to KCCC.

Meeting Guide & Meeting Lists

- Maintain the online AA meeting database.
- Add, update, and remove meetings as needed.
- Produce and maintain printed District 7 meeting lists for bookstore sales and beginner packets.

Literature & Bookstore Operations

- Manage sales of AA literature and anniversary coins.
- Monitor and maintain inventory levels.
- Process special and institutional orders.
- Balance customer needs with organizational financial health.

Financial Management

- Maintain accurate, auditable financial records using QuickBooks and spreadsheets.
- Track sales, donations, expenditures, inventory, and banking activity.
- Reconcile accounts and balance the checkbook monthly.
- Submit monthly records for review by the CPA and KCCC.
- Coordinate quarterly and annual tax filings.

Office & Administrative Operations

- Pay bills and manage vendor relationships.
- Coordinate banking, insurance, telecommunications, printing, and property services.
- Maintain authorized bank users, office keys, and operational records.
- Purchase office supplies and coordinate capital equipment purchases.
- Maintain office cleanliness and arrange repairs as needed.

Committee & Community Support

- Attend monthly KCCC meetings and provide financial reports.
- Respond to inquiries from AA members and partner organizations.
- Publish Friday Night Speaker Meeting announcements.
- Support newsletter production and distribution.
- Assist with KCCC events and ensure proper financial tracking.

Continuity & Records Management

- Train backup personnel to ensure uninterrupted operations.
- Maintain organized electronic and paper records.
- Communicate office closures or emergencies to KCCC.
- Preserve institutional knowledge and operational procedures.

Interested?

Email your resume to OfficeAdmin@GrandRapidsAA.org

FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER MEETINGS

PUBLIC WELCOME!

LOCATION: THE NORTH ALANO CLUB

1020 College Ave, NE, Grand Rapids, MI
(Lower-Level Balcony)
Phone 616-456-5709

Friday, July 3, 2026, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Brent K.
Home Group: Second Chance

Friday, July 10, 2026, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Dominick G.
Home Group: Floating House Group

Friday, July 17, 2026, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Chandler R.
Home Group: YPAA

Friday, July 24, 2026, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Jasmine G.
Home Group: Middleville Miracles

Friday, July 31, 2026, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Mike Y.
Home Group: Floating House Group

District 7 Business Meeting

Saturday July 11th

Sponsored by the Ionia Noon Group

9AM DCM's 10AM-12PM all others

910 E. Lincoln Ave, Ionia, MI, 48846 (M-21)



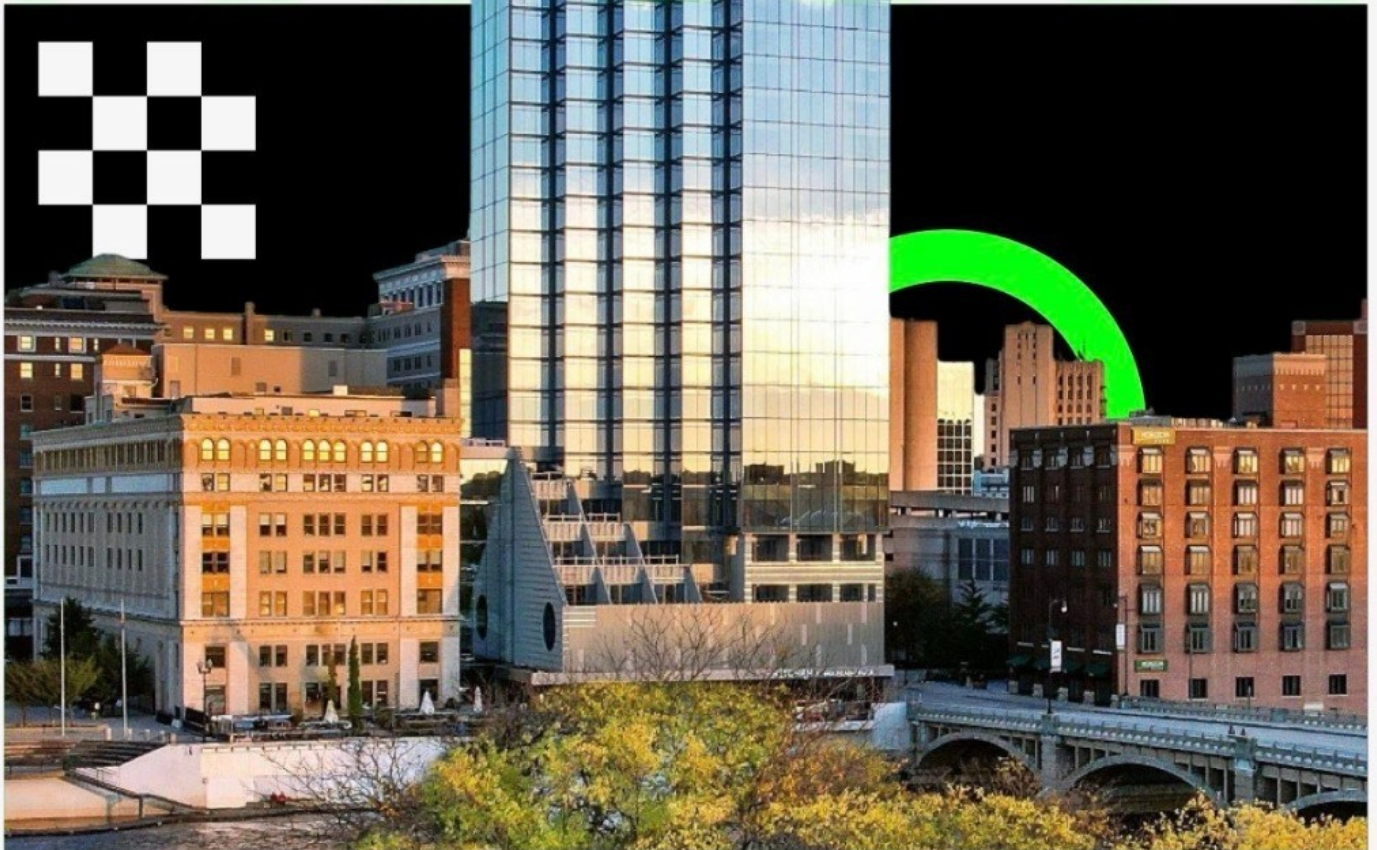
Afterwards, please join us for the ING cookout!

Bring a dish to pass if you wish!

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided!

ANNOUNCING:

66TH ICYPAA MICHIGAN



BOOK YOUR ROOM!
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2S3V63DB](https://tinyurl.com/2S3V63DB)

**SEPT
3-6
2026** | **AMWAY
GRAND
PLAZA**



REGISTER NOW!



187 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



www.icypaa.org