



Alcoholics Anonymous Area 33 - District 21 & 22

# Sober Times

June 2024

I AM RESPONSIBLE ... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.



The District 21 & 22 monthly newsletter's purpose is to share the AA message and inform members of upcoming events around our area and the needs and celebrations of our local AA groups. Supporting our members in unity, service and recovery. Please email [district21.22aa@gmail.com](mailto:district21.22aa@gmail.com) with details of your group's upcoming celebrations, events and/or needs.

## Did you know...

To have your event listed in the upcoming newsletter events section, please email flyer or details to:

[district21.22aa@gmail.com](mailto:district21.22aa@gmail.com)

District 21 & 22 website QR code



~ AA Hotline ~  
(877) 337-0611

~ Area 33 Accessibilities ~  
(586) 335-2840

[Area33accessibilitieschair@aa-semi.org](mailto:Area33accessibilitieschair@aa-semi.org)

## Upcoming Events

= food will be served = dessert provided

- Slender Threads 16th Anniversary ~ June 4th   
6:00pm doors open; 6:30pm dinner; 7:00pm speaker Steve W..  
All Saints Church - 5555 17 Mile Rd. Sterling Hgts. 48313
- District 21/22 Meeting ~ June 10th 7:00 pm  
Grace Episcopal Church - 115 S. Main St. Mount Clemens
- Area 33 Assembly Meeting ~ June 23rd 12:00pm   
10:00 am committee meetings; 11:00 am new GSR orientation  
Madison High School - 915 E. Eleven Mile Rd. Madison Hgts.  
[www.aa-semi.org](http://www.aa-semi.org)
- District 21 & 22 Picnic ~ June 29th 11:00am-3:00pm   
Open talk - speaker: Adam J. Bring a dish if you wish.  
Beebe Street Memorial Park - 69310 Beebe St. Richmond

## Looking Ahead 🗓️

You can plan...just not the outcome

- July 20th ~ 49th Anniversary Breakfast - East China Saturday AM
- August 1-4th ~ 16th Annual Friends of Bill and Lois W. Canoe Trip
- September 13-15th ~ Tri-County Conference  
(special room rate through 08/30/24)

### Sixth Step

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

### Sixth Tradition

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

### Spiritual Principles

Step Six ~ Willingness: the quality or state of being prepared to do something; readiness

### Sixth Step Prayer

God, help me become willing to let go of all the things to which I still cling. Help me to be ready to let You remove all of these defects, that Your will and purpose may take their place. Amen

### Concept VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

## AA GRAPEVINE

### Defects, What Defects?

BY: Anonymous

#### Step Six doesn't make us into robots. It helps us get the willingness to change

*STEP SIX: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

I remember walking into an AA meeting at the Tri-County center almost two years ago. I told myself, I'm not like these people. I don't have a problem. I was scared and mentally and physically drained after having just been released from a detox. I quietly made my way into the meeting room.

What I now know to be the Twelve Steps were hanging near the chair where I sat. I read them and thought to myself that I had at least worked eight of the Steps already. I assumed that the others would not be that hard. I knew I could easily knock them out in a few days, if I tried hard. I thought there would be a few Steps I could avoid or disregard. I read Step Six: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

What defects? I thought. I am perfect and could not possibly have any defects. Even if I did have flaws, to remove them all would make me boring and no fun to be around. I didn't realize that no one wanted to be around me anyway because my drinking had caused so much pain for others. My behavior caused my phone calls to go unanswered. Doors were never opened when I knocked. Life had become unbearable, not just for me, but for those I considered my friends. My defects had become my assets. Manipulation, lying and deception were just the top three picks on my long list of defects.

After completing my Fifth Step with my sponsor, I was instructed to make a list of my defects. I was told to arrange them in order from most used to those less frequently used. Until then, I hadn't realized that I had been using these defects against myself as well. I manipulated my thoughts to fit any circumstance in order to deceive my own brain. I lied to myself about what I thought was right.

I came to many realizations through working the Steps. For example, Step Six is not about making me into a robot. I don't have to do everything right. I just have to change my thinking and allow myself to ask my Higher Power to guide me through the day. I want this Higher Power to allow me to make the right decisions.

The smallest of tasks, I now found, those which used to puzzle me, could be done with ease if I just asked. Step Six is not about making a blood sacrifice or announcing my defects over the mall intercom, but quietly and in a most sincere way, asking for help. I must be submissive in asking for change, rather than being a dominant, overbearing narcissist trying to control every thought and action.

When faced with obstacles that seem to baffle me, I ask for help, and those defects of character will soon be diminished—if I'm willing. Here's a prayer that helps me: "God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. Father, I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace, Lord, and make me willing to have these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings removed."

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<b>District, Area, G.S.O. and Central Office are common service entities groups donate to. Below is how to make contributions for those in our area.</b>	
<b>District 21 &amp; 22</b> PO Box 480594 New Haven, MI 48048 * Now accepting donations through Zelle <a href="mailto:aadistrict21and22@yahoo.com">aadistrict21and22@yahoo.com</a>	<b>General Service Office</b> PO Box 2407 James A. Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407
<b>Area 33</b> <a href="http://aa-semi.org/contribution-page/">aa-semi.org/contribution-page/</a>	<b>AA of Greater Detroit</b> 380 Hilton Rd Ferndale, MI 48220 or online <a href="http://www.aferndale.org/how-you-can-help">www.aferndale.org/how-you-can-help</a>