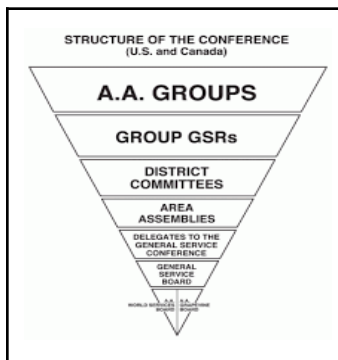




Alcoholics Anonymous Area 33 – District 21 & 22

Sober Times

September 2026

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 with details of your group's upcoming celebrations, events and/or needs.

Did you know...

About Area 33's Service Fair...

WHAT IS OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

Learn more about AA general service, the role of officers and committees and how they serve the community.

Madison High School
915 E. Eleven Mile Rd.
Madison Hgts.

Sunday, September 21st
10:30 am – 2:30 pm

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~ 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

- 66th ICYPAA Michigan – Sept. 3–6th  
Amway Grand Plaza – 187 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids 49503  
[www.icypaa.org](http://www.icypaa.org)
- Where There's Hope 36th Anniversary Picnic – Sept. 7th 🍽️  
12:00pm – 4:00pm Open speaker at 1:30pm – Joe V.  
Dodge Park – Pavilion 2 – 40620 Utica Rd. Sterling Hgts.
- District 21 & 22 Meeting ~ Sept. 14th 7:00pm – 8:00pm  
Grace Episcopal Church – 115 S. Main St. Mount Clemens
- 39th Tri-County Conference ~ Sept. 11-13th  
Auburn Hills Marriott Pontiac  
3600 Centerpoint Pkwy Pontiac 48341  
<https://www.tricountyconference.org/>
- 24th Annual Sobriety Harvest ~ Sept. 19th 11:00am – 5:00pm 🍽️  
Lunch at noon; Readings and speaker at 1:30pm – Jim D.  
East China Park – Pavilion 2 – 701 Recor Rd. East China
- 17th Anniversary Good Orderly Direction – Sept. 27th 6:00pm 🍽️  
Dinner at 6:00pm; Open Speaker at 7:00pm – Aidan F.  
Memphis Free Methodist Church – 34361 Bordman Rd. Memphis

### Ninth Step

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

### Ninth Tradition

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

### Spiritual Principles

Step Nine ~ Brotherly Love: "feelings of humanity and compassion towards one's fellow humans."

### Ninth Step Prayer

God, give me the strength and direction to do the right thing no matter what the consequences may be. Help me to consider others and not harm them in any way. Help me to consult with others before I take any actions that would cause me to be sorry. Help me to not repeat such behaviors. Show me the way of patience, tolerance, kindness, and love and help me live the spiritual life.

### Concept IX

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees. BB pg. 575

## AA GRAPEVINE

### Balcony brothers

BY: LUKE H. | ALLENDALE, NEW JERSEY

#### He made his plan to escape out the back door. But two guys with a coffeepot were waiting

For me, desperation has a short shelf life. I had been so eager and desperate to do everything needed to get sober after my latest drinking spree, which was on a Saturday. But by Tuesday, things didn't seem so bad. I was all ready to go out there again to repeat the desperate experiment of the first drink. That's when a couple of "muppets" came to my rescue.

The last four years of my drinking hell culminated in me getting my car impounded and walking from a police station to my brother's house and going to sleep on his couch. During that walk, I knew with absolute certainty that I had to get back to AA. This time, I would take seriously the suggestions that had been offered to me so many times in the past.

After two days of staying in and wrapping myself in a blanket of self-pity, I knew I had to get to a meeting. The Tuesday noon meeting at Hohokus would do the trick. But as it got closer to noon, something happened to me that I cannot explain. All of a sudden, I thought that things were not really as bad as I made them out to be. This time would be different, I told myself.

I had my brother drop me off an hour before the start time of the AA meeting. I planned to head out the back door after he left. The \$100 that my aunt had just given me to help out was burning a hole in my pocket.

My brother dropped me off and I stepped inside the darkened meeting room. I waited for my brother to be out of sight and then my plan was to take off. That's when I heard an odd sound in the otherwise quiet, empty AA room.

It was a mechanical *psst ... psst* sort of sound. I peeked into the room to investigate and discovered the sound to be a coffee urn starting to brew. Just as I turned to leave, a raspy voice penetrated the room.

"Hey, who's that? Are you new? Come here, kid. Where are you from?" the voice said. Just then the lights went on and I saw two men sitting in a balcony section in the back of the room. They looked like the two old guys from *The Muppets* television show who always sat up in the balcony. The old men asked me to come up. I felt I had no choice but to go over and sit with them.

I didn't leave that day and I haven't left AA since. That was 16 years ago. I can't be sure what would have happened if I had gone out the back door that day. Maybe I would have made it back, maybe not. I often think about that when I see empty chairs in our meetings.

I like to think that those two "muppets" saved my life. I don't even remember their names now. They were just making coffee and doing service. I have a special place in my heart for AA service and what they did for me. Now I get to do the same.

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