

District 10
Higher Ground
December 2020



Christmas Greetings 1950

THIS is the fifteenth Christmas for Alcoholics Anonymous. Seldom has this tired world been more confused divided and distraught. Yet never has the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous been more alive, united and peaceable. God continues to bestow upon us--His long benighted ones--abiding joy and boundless freedom.

What great gifts of Grace!

Do we listen, we can hear Him say "Freely ye have received, freely give--Merry Christmas to you all" We of AA shall take these words to heart as never before--For we, more than most, are privileged to know their full meaning!

Dr. Bob and Bill W., Dec. 1950

This Month in AA History

District Meeting Schedule

Dec. 8 Jan. 12

*Virtual on Zoom @ 7:30
ID: 895 8996 2911
Password: 212057*

December 12, 1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.

December 1938 - Using Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the 6 steps to 12.

December 19, 1939 - Drunks in Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting.

December 1940 - 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Mo.

December 11, 1941 - Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas.

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NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER

From ([N.A.I.G.S.O.](#)) The Native American Indian General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Web Site.

Seventh Tradition

The District thanks the following groups for their contributions which were received recently: Plattsburgh Friday Night Step and Saranac Lake ODAAT

Oh Great Spirit
Whose Voice I Hear in the wind.
Whose breath gives life to the world.
Hear I come to you as one of your many children.
I am small and weak,
I need your strength and wisdom;
May I walk in beauty.
Make my eyes behold the red and purple sunset;
Make my hands respect the things that you
have made,
And my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may know the things
That you have taught your children;
The lessons that you have hidden in
every leaf and rock.
Make me strong . . . not to be superior to my
brothers but to be able to fight my greatest enemy. . . myself.
Make me ever ready to come to you with
straight eyes so that
When life fades as the faded sunset,
My spirit will come to you without shame.

Group Anniversaries

Dec.18, 1984 - Champlain – Northern Tier Group

Dec.27, 1994 - Saranac Lake – Happy Hour Group

For What It's Worth

The **Whiskey Rebellion** was a tax protest in the United States beginning in 1791 and ending in 1794. The so-called "whiskey tax" was the first tax imposed on a domestic product by the newly formed federal government. Beer was difficult to transport and spoiled more easily than rum and whiskey. The "whiskey tax" became law in 1791 and was intended to generate revenue for the debt incurred during the Revolutionary War. The tax applied to all distilled spirits. Farmers of the western frontier were accustomed to distilling their surplus rye, barley, wheat, or corn to make whiskey. These farmers resisted the tax. Many of the resisters were war veterans who believed that they were fighting for the principles of the American Revolution, in particular against taxation without local representation, while the federal government maintained that the taxes were the legal expression of Congressional taxation powers.

Throughout Western Pennsylvania, protesters used violence and intimidation to prevent federal officials from collecting the tax. Washington himself rode at the head of an army of 13,000 to suppress the insurgency. The rebels all went home before the arrival of the army, and there was no confrontation. ^[5]

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The Whiskey Rebellion demonstrated that the new national government had the will and ability to suppress violent resistance to its laws, though the tax remained difficult to collect. The events contributed to the formation of political parties in the United States, a process already under way. The whiskey tax was repealed in the early 1800s.

Upcoming Events

Local

Dec 24-25 – Albany Alkathon
virtual on Zoom
see: aaalbanyny.org

Dec 31- Jan 1 - Albany Alkathon
virtual on Zoom
see: aaalbanyny.org

On The Road

Feb. 18 - 21 – 57th Intn'l Women's
Conference, virtual
registration required. See:
www.internationalwomensconference.org

Happy Trails to You

This is my last edition of Higher Ground. It's time for a fresh perspective and a younger approach to the District Newsletter. Vern L. will take over in January. I wish him well, appreciate his willingness to serve and look forward to his first edition.

Finally, I'd like to thank my staff for their hard work and service these past few years.

Quote of the Month

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

Dr. Seuss

