

Elkhart Area A. A. Share Guide

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Elkhart Central Service Office - 949 ½ Middlebury St., Elkhart IN

Open Monday to Friday 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Office Mgr. Jim D.

Phone: 574-295-8188 Answering Service available 24/7 email: elkhartcso@gmail.com

Family: By Sean B. H.

So here we are starting a new year and coming to the end of the *Bermuda Triangle*, also known as the triple whammy of holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve.

Due to the holidays, I have spent a decent amount of time as of late reflecting on my *family*. Just the word *family* can illicit overpowering emotions, good and bad, at each end of the spectrum. Personally, I am without a doubt blessed beyond reason. My family is truly a gift, a gift that requires a great deal of effort to care for, protect and nurture. At my lowest self; my thieving, lying, self-absorbed lowest, my family loved me enough to tell me the truth and let me go... those events changed the course of my life and drove me back to Alcoholics Anonymous.

There was no magic potion to instantly restore those broken family relationships; I had spent years destroying them. But, with time and effort (often painful and ugly effort) we are closer than ever before. I am blessed beyond reason, and I thank God whom I choose to call my higher power, EVERY day for my family. I have met and been acquainted with many people who have had and are having the same experience.

I have also been acquainted with so many who are on the opposite end of the healing spectrum. Many of us still have unhealed family relationships; families still in active alcoholism and addiction. This situation typically makes the holidays treacherous to navigate, often painful, and confusing. Many of those on this end of the proverbial spectrum lean heavily on their A.A. family.

The local A.A. halls and clubs are filled with laughter, fellowship, food, and often tears of joy. Many of those without family are invited into the homes of fellow members. To those new to the fellowship, those who are experiencing a sober *Bermuda Triangle* for the first time, there is a family here for you. A very real, very loving family. The kind of family that will tell you the truth. A family that loves you as you are and will love you until you can love yourself. As hard as it may be to accept the gift of family in A.A., I implore you to do so. Someday, someone will need you to be *their* family.

Unshakeable Foundation for Life™

71st Indiana State Convention

March 15 – 17, 2024

900 E. 7th. St. Bloomington Indiana 47405 on IU's Bloomington Campus

Hotel @ 800-209-8145 or www.imu.indiana.edu Rates: \$129 per night Code: SIA23STATE

Registration \$56 Banquet \$35

Register online @ <https://area23aa.org/event/state-convention-2024>

Pay by mail with check or money order to:

Area 23/2024 State Convention

P O Box 546, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Sobriety Birthdays

Dustin M. - December 8, 2023
Gail Mc. - January 1, 1998
Andrew H. - January 2, 2023
Gary S. - January 4, 2013
James K. - January 7, 2013
Alan B. - January 9, 2023
Jennifer G. - January 10, 2021
Nancy R. - January 11, 1983
Rick K. - January 11, 1981
Izzy H. - January 21, 1987
Matthew M. - January 28, 1981
Janelle R. - January 30, 1980

Elkhart Central Service Office Elections – February 19th

Elkhart CSO is looking for A.A. members to step up to service by joining the CSO board of directors. All positions are needed.

Come to the next CSO board meeting
January 15th @ 6:30 p.m. in the CSO office
(back of Serenity Hall)

If you are interested contact Steve C. for
more information @ 574-370-6116

Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the
friends and families:

Gary Gilbert – Osceola & Bristol Groups

Bobby H. - South Bend

For Your Information

- ★ Goshen New Visions 10 a.m. mtg has moved from Monday to Tuesday
- ★ Saturday Night Speaker mtgs at Serenity Hall needs sponsors
- ★ Elkhart Mini Conference next meeting is January 10 @ CSO