

# The Daily Brew

District 55 AA Newsletter

Nov/Dec '25

## Service & Sobriety

- INTERVIEW WITH DANIELLE E., District 55 District Committee Member (DCM)

Danielle has been sober since March 5, 2011, and calls Sequim'N Women her home group. With 14 years of sobriety and nearly seven years of district service, she's no stranger to giving back to Alcoholics Anonymous.

*"I've held a service position pretty much since the beginning of my sobriety"*

*Danielle E.*

When asked how she came into her current role as District Committee Member (DCM), she explained, "There was nobody stepping up for the position, and I thought I was capable of doing it. I talked to my family and sponsor, and everyone was on board. I'd let go of some other commitments, so I was ready for a bigger one. That's how it happened."

Before becoming DCM, Danielle served as District Treasurer, Accessibilities Chair, Alternate DCM, and GSR for her home group. "I've held a service position pretty much since the beginning of my sobriety," she said. "I've done every position at a group level except secretary – that one's not for me!"

While many might think the hardest part of being DCM is managing all the personalities, the real challenge for Danielles is getting up to the microphone, "I don't like microphones! Facilitating meetings is fine – I've led meetings for years. But going to assemblies and having to speak in front of a large group? That's the part that makes me nervous." On the flip side, she finds the most rewarding part of service to be seeing others step up and get involved.

"When I first started at District, there were only a few of us showing up and the same people held the same positions for years. Now, we have new faces, every position filled and even created new ones like the Young Person's Chair. Seeing that growth and enthusiasm is inspiring."

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# Service & Sobriety

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On the topic of young people, Danielle recognizes both the challenges and opportunities. “We just created a Young Person’s Chair position in our district. We don’t have a lot of young people in our area yet, but I have high hopes. There are so many teens and young adults struggling, and just having a meeting called a young person’s meeting can make them feel more welcome.” She’d like to see outreach expand into local schools and juvenile centers, “maybe through presentations or pamphlets just letting young people know there’s a place for them.”

When asked why service is so important to AA’s survival, Danielle put it simply: “Because we can’t function without it. AA runs on service. Just like any organization, someone has to open the door, make the coffee, set up the chairs, and order the books. Without people willing to do those things, meetings wouldn’t happen. Service is part of the triangle – recovery, unity, and service – and we need all three to stay balanced.”

Danielle sponsors several women and encourages them to be of service. “I tell my sponsees to get involved. It’s easier to be of service when you’re committed to a home group,” she said. “One of my sponsees goes into the juvenile detention center, another takes on different group positions. Service helps them feel connected and part of something bigger.”

For anyone thinking about volunteering as a GSR or taking on a district position, Danielle offers encouraging words: “Don’t be scared. You don’t need special credentials. A GSR is really just a messenger – you bring your group’s voice to the district and the area and carry information back. It’s an amazing way to stay connected to AA and to watch how our fellowship really works.”

Danielle’s enthusiasm for service is contagious, and her journey is a reminder that AA’s heartbeat continues through those willing to give of themselves. As she says with a smile, **“We only get to keep what we have by giving it away.”**

## Need Service?

**No Commitment Trial**

Check us out!

Third Tuesday of every month at the American Legion in Sequim - 7pm

# Thank a District 55 Trusted Servant during Gratitude Month!

DCM: Danielle E. / Alt DCM: Johnny L.

Secretary: Michelle G. / Alt: Deborah J

Treasurer: Brenda C. / Alt: Travis L

Accessibility: Susan W. / Alt: Andrea S.

Activities: Jenniffer M.

Answering Service: Jim W.

Archives: Bill W.

Corrections: Vasily S.

Literature: Tim H.

Newsletter: Holly K.

PI/CPC: Alex F.

Schedules: Jim W.

Treatment: Anne F.

Website: Julie P.

Young People's Chair: Jim B.

# Activities

**District 55 - Gratitude Banquet - Nov 1st**  
Sequim Community Church

**Port Townsend Banquet - Nov 8th**  
**Port Angeles Banquet - Nov 15th**

**Duck In Pot Luck:** Oct 31st - Dana D.;  
Nov 28th - Rick F; Dec 26th - TBD

**District Meeting - Nov 18th / Dec 16th**  
American Legion Sequim - 6pm Activities, 7pm  
District meeting

**Holiday Giving Tree** - American Legion  
See Kimberly for details

**Treatment Miracles** - Sun, Nov 9th  
11am-5pm; See Anne F. for details

**Christmas Dinner - Dec. 25th**  
**Alcathon 12/31/25 - 1/1/2026**

# Corner

## Abstract in Sobriety - JoAnna's Journey

- INTERVIEW WITH JoAnna C

**When JoAnna first walked into an AA meeting in San Diego, she didn't know her life was about to change.** Her husband, the love of her life, had been facing pancreatic cancer and, with concern for her future, told her gently, "I think you're drinking too much." That moment became a turning point. JoAnna picked up the phone, called Central, and the very next day attended her first AA meeting.

"I'll never forget," she recalls. "All shapes and sizes of people were there, and by the second meeting, a woman named Carol came up and said, 'I'm Christmas Carol.' I just blurted out, 'Will you be my sponsor?' And it was a perfect match. Truly, she was exactly who I needed at that time."

From that day forward, AA became a foundation for JoAnna's life. Following her husband's passing in 2008, she sought support from the program and her sponsors. Eventually, she felt the nudge to begin a new chapter. "I've always believed in listening to the hand of God," she says. "One night, I looked around and realized I could leave the life I had and create something new. That's when I moved north."

JoAnna's transition to the Pacific Northwest gave her more than just fresh air and quiet forests—it gave her space. Literally. With an extra bedroom in her new home, she finally had room to paint.



# Artists Corner

## Continued

Art had always been inside her, waiting. As a child, she sketched floor plans for houses. She worked in art-related fields over the years but never had the time or environment to create her own work. Retirement and sobriety opened that door. In Port Ludlow, she connected with a small group of abstract artists. “There are only about eight of us, but everyone has a good eye,” she explains. “I showed them a piece I made from cutting up a book of tall building photographs, and they said, ‘We’ve never seen anything like this before.’ That encouragement gave me the confidence to keep going.” (See photo on the right - best in color on the website)



Most of JoAnna’s pieces are acrylic, often textured, layered, and vibrant. Color is what drives her. “I’m very oriented to color,” she says. “After my cataract surgery, I came home and said, ‘Oh my God, I never knew white was so white!’ That opened up a whole new way of seeing.”

Her favorite palette often includes deep blacks and cerulean blues, but she isn’t afraid to play. “Sometimes I put together colors I never would have imagined, and somehow it just works.” Abstract art mirrors recovery in many ways. It’s about experimentation, letting go of control, and trusting the process. JoAnna laughs when asked if deadlines with her artist group ever stress her out. “No, not at all. The creative eye is satisfying to me. Even if I have to scrape it all off and start again, I know I’ll get there.”

Today, JoAnna is an active part of her AA community in Sequim. She especially loves greeting people at the Monday noon meeting at the American Legion. “I thought maybe it was time to give someone else the opportunity,” she says, “but they told me, ‘No, you can’t stop! Everyone comes on Mondays for your hugs.’” Her art may hang on walls, but her real masterpiece is the life she has built through sobriety. “I feel like I live under God’s umbrella,” JoAnna says. “AA gave me the tools, my husband gave me the gift of honesty, and now I get to live a life full of color.”

# Steps & Traditions

11

**Step 11** - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

PRAYER	MEDITATION	CONTACT
GUIDANCE	SILENCE	LISTEN
KNOWLEDGE	WILL	POWER
STRENGTH	SERENITY	INWARD
FAITH	PRACTICE	—

P E C T K Z Z W U E R E B  
A C P C F N B E J Y E C L  
V I V A N W O L V T Y N I  
H T S T O C B W F I A E N  
T C J N I E K D L N R L W  
G A B O T C S C R E P I A  
N R B C A N T A E R D S R  
E P G L T A Z F W E M G D  
R P F I I D D I O S S J E  
T T A S D I W Q P C T J E  
S C I T E U I O T I F U Y  
W Q T E M G L D P T H W J  
B M H N K V L F W P Z O L

**Tradition 11:** Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

**Concept 11** - In simple terms (credit Google) is about trusted servants delegating wisely. The Trustees hold responsibility but rely on committees and staff to carry out A.A.'s work with skill, balance, and integrity.

# Steps & Traditions

## 12

**Step 12:** “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

**Tradition 12:** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place **principles before personalities**.

**Concept 12:** In simple terms (credit to Google) - Concept 12 is about safeguarding A.A. as a democratic, humble, service-oriented fellowship—free from power struggles, financial excess, or controversy.

Step 12 is one of the most powerful steps and has definitely helped me in my sobriety. Service work, sharing our stories and sponsorship are three key actions we can take to work this step, but it can be more than that. As we approach the holiday season, practicing these principles in all our affairs (including driving in traffic & parking at meetings) can truly rocket us into the 4th Dimension. Happy Holidays! - Holly K.

## Note from the Newsletter Chair

Welcome to the District 55 Newsletter., in this edition we are giving thanks for all the service(s) AA members provide. If you would like to provide any article ideas, personal stories, poems or some hint of what you would like to see in future editions to the following email address:

newsletter.district55@gmail.com - or scan the QR code

Thanks - Your News Letter Chair - Holly K.

\*\*all photo's and interviews are published with consent

Scan QR code  
to send idea's  
or questions

