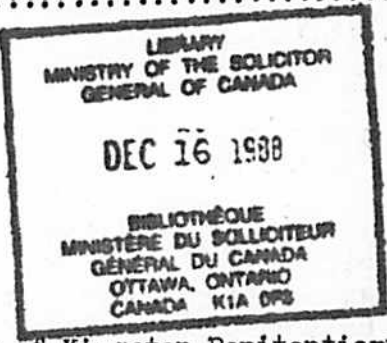


# AURORA

KINGSTON PENITENTIARY

NEWS LETTER

ALCOHOLICS  
NONYMOUS.



THE CHAIRMAN SAYS:

With the inauguration of Aurora News Letter, we of Kingston Penitentiary are happy indeed to join hands in the fellowship of AA Groups and to carry on the 12th Step work and its principles. We chose the name Aurora for our News Letter. The Dictionary says, "Aurora - Goddess of Dawn". We also join hands in giving thanks to the founders of AA, Bill W. and Dr. Bob, two men who like ourselves had trod the path of despair. But they discovered and succeeded in putting into practice something, which to date great men of learning and institutions have failed to do, to give to the alcoholic a new lease on life, a clear sane outlook on living. Think for a moment the tremendous amount of joy and happiness that has been restored to so many individuals who knew only despair and loneliness. AA is accepted as a non-religious, non-political organization, devoted entirely to people who have admitted to themselves and to others, that their lives had become unmanageable through alcohol and decided to do something about it. It is an organization that asks nothing of its members, except an honest effort and a sincere desire to share with other members, the peace of mind and the belief in a Power higher than we to retain the euphorics derived thereof. So may Aurora bring to so many of us behind and outside of these walls, a new dawn and a new lease on life. Our group is only in its embryonic state and we would appreciate hearing from any group that can give advice and through their experience, help us to find that which we seek and may we all eventually find that which is so priceless: peace of mind and a life of contented sobriety.

Wm. B.

THE SECRETARY REPORTS:

As a curtain raiser for the first News Letter, Aurora, we'd like to bring our many AA friends up to date on our activities here at Kingston Pen. Our initial meeting was held on January 27th last, thanks to Toronto and other Ontario groups, and bi-weekly meetings have followed. Having had little or no actual experience ourselves in AA procedure we were entirely dependent upon outside, and inside groups for guidance and counsel. Our SOS brought immediate help from points as far away as California and British Columbia. Our membership has climbed in four months from ten to a present roster of twenty members; this figure does not include the six members who have left for the free world via release. While our present membership represents only 2.48 percent of the inmate population we like to think that it is a very good start. In the near future we hope to conduct an open meeting complete with the showing of an AA film. This open meeting, it is hoped, will help to explain some of the inner workings of AA for the benefit of those inmates - alks or no - who wish to attend. We want to prove to the skeptics, if possible, that we really have something worthwhile. To George D. of Toronto, goes a great deal of credit for our success here at KP and we look upon George as a sort of foster-parent. We are deeply indebted too, to the fine speakers who drive a couple of hundred miles and more to be with us on meeting days. The messages of hope and inspiration that they bring to us inside these walls have brought about a change in our trend of thought that is truly miraculous. But foremost, we are grateful - most grateful indeed - for the privilege of sharing in the bequest made to all alcoholics by Dr. Bob and Bill, in Akron, Ohio, on that memorable day in May 1935.

Bill Z.

### A MEMBER SPEAKS:

Being an alcoholic and having studied AA literature, especially the Twelve Steps, I accept AA as a means of enjoying a future life of contented sobriety. This organization has already proven to over one hundred and twenty thousand alcoholics that this is possible. I myself have had a spiritual awakening from the results of this group. I feel one can work spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection. To the most of us this perfection is about as far away as the corner we were looking for to quit drinking, but did not reach that corner. I believe that a lot of our serious problems are based on our thinking and as I put it, one thought from a drink, one drink from a drunk, and one drunk from the gutter. To me, AA is a means of mental rehabilitation to sobriety to love and service. We in here must learn to love and help one another or we lose the thrill of living by being selfish. We must also learn to overcome jealousy, resentment, and self-pity. If we can overcome these faults and work the first three of the Twelve Steps, I believe we are laying the foundation for a future life of contented sobriety. We must not become over-confident as the results of the work. We must continue to seek guidance through a Power higher than we, for everything depends on this Power, whatever it may be. I think an alcoholic capable of honestly facing his problems in the light of his experience gained through AA can recover, providing he does not close his mind to all spiritual concept and unselfish performance of duty to himself and his fellow man.

Clarence H.

### A WORD FROM THE SPONSOR:

As Sponsor, I find it particularly gratifying to witness the operation of a Group activity such as this where the initiative and responsibility is assumed by the men themselves. I had waited many months for the day which finally arrived when three men approached me to request that I take action to allow the formation of the KP AA. I will continue to sit in the background and ease things on the administrative side. KP AA is your own group and you are making it the means to a new life.

F.P. Miller,  
Classification Officer.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Rock Bottom - Your weekly bulletin is great. Thanks WEM for your swell letter and pointers. W. B. says "Thanks for the comment in your Rock Bottom #20". Will answer your question by letter.

Arizona Advocate - Your "Sobriety is the Goal" in April issue is tops. We used it to head off one of our discussion periods.

Alcenaire - Thanks for exchange. You have some mighty fine AA thinkers on deck.

Windsor, Vt - Congrats on your Birthday!

To the fellows in the other Canadian Pen Groups, (B.C., Dorchester, P.A., and Stoney) thanks for your help and Good Luck in the future.

To all the other prison groups - Thanks for your good examples and the encouragement you have given.

To Reg. B. and Reuban B. special thanks for a special kind of message.