

**ANOTHER TURNING POINT;
ANOTHER TIME TO "MOVE ON"**

In the beginning, there were only six Board members, and only about 50 Alumni members. It was, at Dr. Hauser's suggestion, "some kind of a steering committee to organize a social structure that would hold people together after they complete the treatment program."

The principal order of business at that first meeting (it was held June 30, 1985, and lasted about 20 minutes) was to plan a picnic and to talk about the kinds of volunteer work that could be done to support the McBride program. Ken Z. and Michael K. served as co-chairmen and Molly S. was the first secretary-treasurer.

The picnic, August 11 in Scout Park on the South Side, was a great success and, importantly, everyone felt that the idea of an alumni association of volunteers was a great idea; that it would serve to tie McBride "graduates" together to mutually support each other as we sail into the new world of recovery.

The "steering committee" became the Board of Directors, a list of objectives and projects was drafted and, in September, Volume I, Number 1 of The Moving Finger went to press. We were on our way!

The group -- it's a legally recognized corporation and foundation now, of course -- has grown to over 500 members and our mailing list carries Alumni news into 16 states from New Jersey and Florida to California. Our collective contributions to McBride, in time, energy and material resources, are significant. Our presence is known.

At the same time, the contribution to my own recovery has been equally significant. Serving with and for our McBride Alumni Association and Foundation has been an expression of gratitude returned a thousand-fold. It has been, at times, a lot of work, but far outweighing that, it has been one heck of a lot of fun! It was a genuine privilege to be the group's first president, and to have done my own little part in helping it grow.

Now, however, it is time to let someone else reap those rewards. It's been an honor and I look forward to continued participation in Alumni work as past-president and ex-officio member of the Board. Thank you all for making it happen.

-- Ken Z.

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"The MOVING FINGER writes; and having writ...MOVES ON."
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-- Omar Khayyam
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>>>> P I C N I C L U N C H R E S E R V A T I O N <<<<

/ / Enclosed is my check to cover _____ lunches of 1 hamburger, 1 brat and 1 hot dog, plus potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw and watermelon wedges, @ \$4.25 each.

/ / I'm both hungry and grateful. I've added a contribution of \$_____ to the price of the food.

/ / I can only be there in spirit, but here's a contribution of \$_____ to the McBride Foundation.

NAME: _____ Chk Amt: \$ _____

The Moving Finger

McBRIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

Vol. IV, No. 2

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SUMMER, 1988

**FUN, FELLOWSHIP TO REIGN
AT PICNIC, RENEWAL SUNDAY**

With brats on the grill, soda on ice and fun on tap, this year's Fourth Annual McBride Picnic is going to be the biggest Alumni bash ever! Food and activities for the entire family will be available at Wisconsin Avenue Park August 14th and even the weatherman has promised full cooperation (After last year, he owes us one!).

And with our official constitution and bylaws to be approved and several new Board members to be elected, the business meeting, too, will be a momentous one. Cap that off with what has become an inspirational tradition for McBride Alums -- the morning Renewal Program -- and you have a day you won't want to miss!

Announcements with most of the details were mailed to all members a month ago but, in case you misplaced yours, a registration blank (necessary if you wish to order the pre-arranged hamburger-hot dog-brat picnic lunch) is included elsewhere in this newsletter. Deadline for getting your order placed is **Tuesday, August 9th**. Mail it to: John Lech, 1624 N. 69th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

Following a continental breakfast in the MPH Auditorium at 9:30, the business meeting is set for 10 a.m. with the Renewal Program scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Picnic festivities get underway at 12:30 p.m. in Area 2 of the park, located just east of Wisconsin Avenue and Mayfair Road (Highway 100).

And don't forget the open house for spouses, family members and friends at **Recovery House II** during the morning meeting and program.

Picnic coordinators John L. and John W. have encouraged anyone with playground games or equipment to bring them, along with your energy and spirit. Lawn chairs would probably be a good idea, too, even though picnic tables are available. Your Alumni Association will be providing soda (Yes, we'll have a bigger

proportion of diet and caffeine-free this year) and plenty of charcoal and a king-sized grill.

As described in the flyer, the ready-made lunch, at the low, low price of \$4.25 per person, includes potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, watermelon and, of course, a hamburger, a hot dog and a brat (You cook 'em!). It will save you a trip to the grocery store plus the preparing

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+ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** +
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+ Annual Mtng/Picnic... Aug. 14 +
+ TuesGrp Open Mtng.... Nov. 15 +
+ Winter Retreat..... Dec. 2-4 +
+ Annual Game Night.... Feb. '89 +
+ Brunch With The 1st Sun. of +
+ McBride Bunch.... Every Month +
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+ + + + +

~~~~~ Make Checks to: The McBride Foundation ~~~~~

MAIL TO: John Lech, 1624 N. 69th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

and packing of a lunch; all you need bring is your appetite! But you \*DO\* have to get your orders in to John L. by August 9th.

So gather up the family, or form a group with fellow alums, or both, and don't miss this annual chance to renew old McBride friendships, meet some "grads" you may not know, and, most of all, KEEP THOSE ALUMNI (AND RECOVERY) FIRES BURNING!!!

#### **TUESDAY NIGHT GROUP RESISTS CHANGE**

Like the weather, the overflow crowds at Tuesday night McBride AA meetings proved to be something much talked about but nothing done about.

Responding to a great deal of comment about the frequent standing-room-only situations, and the scarcity of parking space, those attending the July 12 meeting were asked to participate in a "straw poll" with three alternatives on the ballot: (1) Split the group into two concurrent meetings, with one, permanently devoted to the First Step, convening in the Cafeteria while the regular meeting continues in the Auditorium, (2) Divide into two meetings, one starting at the present 7:30 p.m. and another beginning at 9 p.m., and (3) Do nothing; live with the crowding. (An option of starting a second group on another night of the week was suggested but ruled out due to lack of meeting rooms on other evenings.)

The results, announced a week later, showed a preference for continuing with the present format by a resounding 2-1-1 margin among the more than 125 votes cast. Secretary Bob S. pointed out that much of the problem would be eliminated if late arrivals would move into the front seats instead of standing at the rear. Just like at church, "You can hear better in the front pews."

#### **BOARD EXPANDS; OUTSTATE REPRESENTED**

Sheila S., from Evansville, WI, has been elected to one of two new positions on the Alumni Board of Directors. Earlier this year, the Board created the spots to provide representation to the Madison area (Evansville is 25 miles south of Madison) as well as the northeast part of the state with a focus on Green Bay, where a director will soon be named.

The move came in recognition of the large number of McBride grads residing in those areas and is hoped to spur interest in establishing "satellite" groups that will get together on a regular basis.

By attending at least a few of the monthly Board meetings, the outlying-area directors can bring views and suggestions from those districts to the attention of "headquarters."

#### **NEW NAMES, NEW OFFICERS ON BOARD HORIZON**

Alumni members attending the annual business meeting August 14 will be asked to vote on five of the nine regular positions on the Board of Directors. Outgoing members (who are permitted to seek reelection if they choose) include Ken Z., John C., Mary Lee G., Len W. and Cindy L. A nominating committee is putting together a slate for presentation at the meeting, and nominations can also be made from the floor.

On September 11, its first regular meeting following the annual general session, the Board will then elect its officers for the coming year. Ken Z., who has served as president since the Alumni Association and Foundation was formed three years ago, has indicated he will step

down but, as past-president, he will continue as an ex-officio member of the Board. Other current officers include John C., vice president, Janet C., secretary, and Mary Lee G., treasurer.

#### **OTHERS ALSO GIVE TIME AND EFFORT**

In addition to the governing board, the Alumni is served by a corps of special volunteers who head committees, help organize rap sessions, social events, programs such as retreats, and countless other tasks that keep the organization going. In most cases, these dedicated and generous folks go unheralded, unselfishly contributing their time and resources for no reward beyond the satisfaction of helping others. Please don't forget them. And there's always room for more of that kind of sharing -- Be a part of this growing fellowship. Those wishing to assist in these Alumni activities will have an opportunity to sign up at the Annual Meeting, or should contact any Board member.

#### **NOTED SPEAKER SLATED FOR ANNUAL AA MEETING**

Dr. Abraham J. Twerski, a psychiatrist from Pittsburgh, Pa., and an alumnus of the Medical College of Wisconsin, has agreed to be the guest speaker for the Fourth Annual Open Meeting of the Tuesday Night Professionals in AA meeting November 15. As in the past, the Medical College will permit the group to hold this well-attended event in the College Auditorium instead of the regular meeting site at MPH.

Dr. Twerski is nationally known for his insightful talks on alcoholism and recovery as well as for the 800-number recorded telephone messages he has been providing at no charge for several years.

More about this outstanding program will be announced at a later date.

#### **SUMMER RETREAT BIG HIT; DATE SET FOR WINTER ENCORE**

A big round of applause is due Janet C. for her planning and coordinating of the second annual McBride Alumni Retreat, held last June 3-5 at Perpetual Help Retreat House on Crooked Lake near Oconomowoc. As with previous such gatherings, the time spent in close fellowship, sharing experiences and feelings, filled everyone attending with a sense of rejuvenation and growth. As in the past, however, it seemed to end too soon. If you didn't make it, you won't want to miss the next retreat, scheduled for December 2-4 at the beautiful Yahara Conference Center near Madison. The same low registration fee of \$80.00 will cover the entire program -- two nights' lodging and all meals and snacks. Watch for details soon (Board members are already taking early reservations!).

#### **ADDRESS OKAY?**

Keep us current. Please check your mailing label and make sure it is correct in every respect. And don't forget the Alumni Association when moving or changing phone numbers. The listing is confidential and is used only for Alumni news and announcements.

**BRUNCH REMINDER:** Next "Brunch With The McBride Bunch" will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, August 7, at the 76 Club, just south of 76th and Blue Mound.