Dear Friends:

This letter confirms your reservation and acknowledges the receipt of your payment for the 31st Annual Women’s Big Book Retreat on September 11, 12, and 13, 2020, at Camp Rodger’s YMCA Camp. Most of all, trust that God has you in the palm of his hands. If you have any difficulties along the please, pray, trust in God, and reach out for help “call us.”

 I hope our Retreat proves to be an outstanding completion of a year in sober living by the Book for all who attended last year, and an incredible understanding of the Big Book for all those who will be attending for the first time. Even if you have read the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous\* many times before, this retreat will provide an understanding of the spirit of freedom that the steps offer through reading . . . so don’t forget your Book!!!

 This year we will be staying in cabins with bunk beds and mattresses. There are no linens, so bring your pillow, sleeping bag, and an extra blanket won’t hurt. The bathrooms have electricity as well as hot showers at the Bath and Shower house located within walking distance from each cabin. The weather is slightly unpredictable during this time of year, plan for a little of anything during the weekend. Here are some suggested items to pack. Bring all of your toiletries (i.e., soap, shampoo, toothbrush, bath towel, etc.). Bring clothes for the weekend, including a warm jacket and gloves. Also, we encourage you to bring a flashlight and a sitting pillow or camp chair, as our gatherings will take place in the lodge supplied with benches.

There are no medical services available for physical or mental needs at the retreat. The nearest facility or emergency services by ambulance are 30 minutes away if you have any physical or psychological condition that requires or would require medical or mental health support this retreat is probably not for you. If you have questions about this, please contact Patti.

 Because we are human and everyone is not perfect. We have experienced a theft at the retreat and want to caution everyone that if you choose to bring valuables (purse, wallet, money, cell phone, jewelry, etc.), please leave them locked in your vehicle. If you decide to bring your valuables into camp and they come up missing, and you want to report them stolen, you will be responsible for contacting the Sheriff's Office. We sincerely hope it will not happen, but if it does, then ask the retreat director if you can gain access to the camp telephone to report the incident. Remember that when discussing our retreat with the Sheriff's Office to refer to it as a women’s spiritual retreat, not an AA retreat (Alcoholics Anonymous do not sanction our retreat, but our anonymity still must be protected).

 Our meals, as well as the Book presentation, will take place in the main lodge. Meals will be nutritious and filling, but snacking is acceptable and encouraged pastime during the weekend. Please bring something to share with everyone. We lovingly refer to the snack table as the “trough”– everything will be eaten with enthusiasm and be remembered with a smile. Whatever you bring, make it easy on yourself; don’t bring something you have to be involved with, or have to spend time preparing or arranging.

 Registration will begin on Friday, September 11th, at 4:00 pm. If you arrive early, you will not be able to get in. Entry into the event will not be open until 4 pm. You may park your car up by the buildings to unload only. After unloading, you must move your vehicle down to the parking lots located just as you enter the camp where the gate is. Please do not park in a disabled stall unless you are disabled. Make sure when parking not to block other cars in. There is plenty of parking in the parking lots, and you may just have to walk a little further. You may choose your sleeping quarters before or after you register. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by orientation at 8:00 pm. Enclosed is a schedule of the seminar material and a map to Camp Rodger’s YMCA Camp.

 Camp Rodger’s YMCA Camp is non-smoking, so a smoking area will be available a short walking distance off the property beyond the gate coming into the property. When smoking, please remember to extinguish cigarette butts in the sand pails located in the smoking area outside of the gate coming into the property. Pets are not allowed at the retreat. This retreat will be fun, as well as enlightening, so plan to be happy, joyous, and free for the entire weekend! We look forward to seeing you there!

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