



Message from the Office Manager: Please Reflect and Advise on the Proposed Sale of Non-Conference-Approved Literature in the Intergroup Office.

We're currently revisiting an old question at the Intergroup office. This question is tricky because there is no clear suggestion from past AA experience. So, raising this issue again provides a great opportunity for our membership to reflect together on how best to follow our Traditions and serve the fellowship.

The question is about whether the Intergroup office should sell only "Conference-approved" literature - i.e., literature published by AA World Services and approved by the AA General Service Conference - or whether the St. Paul Intergroup ought to include some items that are helpful to recovering alcoholics, but are non-Conference approved. This is an issue often faced by our groups when deciding what literature should be read in our meetings, and what things we should include on our group literature tables.

The question has come up because groups frequently ask for the "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book in the Intergroup office. AA's are often surprised to learn that this book, frequently read at meetings, is not AA Conference-approved literature. It was written by AA members in the 1950s and has been read at many meetings ever since. When told that we don't carry the book because it is not an AA World Services publication, they sometimes ask, "Well, don't other AA Intergroups carry it?" And it is true that some Intergroups do carry this book and other non-Conference approved reading material. Some of the groups have informed the St. Paul AA Intergroup Steering Committee that they would like to be able to buy this book at the Intergroup office because they want their literature purchases to support their Intergroup.

As reasonable as this sounds, there is also a reasonable argument for carrying only Conference-approved literature in the office. Groups that want to keep things Conference-approved only point out that it's hard enough already to keep the AA message clear for alcoholics, especially as we tend to be people who are easily distracted and have a hard time staying focused on the important stuff. It can be difficult to have non-Conference approved literature around without giving the impression that we endorse those views, and this would be in conflict with Tradition Ten, "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues..."

If that sounds cut and dried, there is still a grey area here: Consider the *Grapevine* publications we carry. These are not Conference-approved, and yet almost no one would suggest we not carry them. Also, most of the Intergroups that *don't* carry non-AA literature *do* carry medallions or pins. Another in-between example is recordings of AA meetings and speakers. These are not Conference-approved, but in a way they are AA, because they are our meetings.

Whatever the answer is for St. Paul Intergroup, it's a question that has been kicked around for a long time. According to "A Summary: Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1951-1999," the 1972 General Service Conference recommended, first, "The *Twenty-Four Hour Book* not be confirmed as Conference-approved literature," and second, "It be suggested that when a local AA facility (central office, Intergroup, group, etc.) sells non-Conference-approved literature, it be clearly designated as such" (p. 52). From this we see that some Intergroups and Central Offices have carried non-Conference approved material for at least thirty years. The A.A. Guidelines for Central or Intergroup Offices have no explicit recommendation on non-Conference-Approved literature, but do mention the sales of Conference-approved literature.

So, each group being autonomous, we now ask you members of the A.A. groups in the St. Paul area to consider this question, reflect on it, and send your representative to the monthly Intergroup Reps' meeting to advise us of your group's thoughts. Over the next few months the board will revisit this question, and we would like to have your group's input!

Thank you for your service,
Tom

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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E-mail: lifeline@aastpaul.org

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 9 AM to 6 PM; Tuesday: 9 AM to 8 PM

1600 University Avenue W. Suite 407 St. Paul MN 55104

Tradition Seven:

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

"...we had to recognize the fact that A.A. had to function. Meeting places cost something. To save whole areas from turmoil, small offices had to be set up, telephones installed, and a few full-time secretaries hired. Over many protests, these things were accomplished. We saw that if they weren't, the man coming in the door wouldn't get a break."

"Then our trustees wrote a bright page of A.A. history. They declared for the principle that A.A. must always stay poor. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation's financial policy. ... At that moment, we believe, the principle of corporate poverty was firmly and finally embedded in A.A. tradition."

--from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," pp. 161 & 165.

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Step Seven: Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

The Big Book is somewhat brief on Step Seven. When we are ready for God to "remove from us" our character defects, we say the Seventh Step prayer, or something like it, and we ask God: "remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows."

Indeed, for some of us our worst defects are simply removed, and our personality changes overnight. Some changes come simply because we have become willing to change. This can be very much like the miraculous lifting of the obsession for alcohol many of us experience when we "turn it over" in the first three steps.

But in the many years since the Big Book was written, many of us (including Bill W.) have found that the removal of other defects requires work on our part. The Twelve & Twelve mentions that we sometimes hold onto our defects "because we still enjoy them too much" to let them go. Willingness and humility are stressed throughout the Big Book and Twelve & Twelve passages on Step Seven. The Twelve & Twelve goes on to say that "we are driven on by the inescapable conclusion which we draw from A.A. experience, that we surely must try with a will, or else fall by the wayside. . . . We are obliged to choose between the pains of trying and the certain penalties of failing to do so."

So, once again, it's "spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection" for us recovering alcoholics!

— Anonymous

2006 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Eric H.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Members at Large 2006:</u>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Members at Large 2005:</u>	Tom S. and Patty M.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Renee B.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in May*

Meeting information	157
Inventory hours	12
12th step calls	16
Temporary sponsor	19
Speaker request	10
Special events	6
Outside issues	16
Administrative	59
Other	56
Total Calls	294
Daily average	14.7
Visitors	32
<i>*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.*</i>	

St Paul AA Intergroup Minutes from May 16, 2006 Main Body Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

The primary purpose of Intergroup was read.

In attendance: Eric H, Jonathan G, Michael K, Jon C, Alice S, Peggy, Russ B, Roxi S, Marty, Nic G, Mary J, Alfred K, John B, John F, Mike L, Jeff T, Lisa, Mary Jo, Tom N, Diane, Susanna B

The April minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Jo presented the treasurer's report for April. Group contributions have been down compared to April 2005. St Paul Intergroup received a generous donation of \$12,000 from the Women's conference. Even without it, April saw us \$600 dollars ahead of expectations.

The Office Report: Tom delivered the office report for April. The office has been short on volunteers and we could use more. The sobriety requirement for answering phones was debated. We require at least 3 months because some of the calls coming in are from people in bad shape. A person new to sobriety is often not well equipped to handle such calls.

Website Report: Jonathan was not available to present the April website report.

Outreach: Alfred presented the April Outreach report. "*Nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.*" They visited ten meetings in April and have appointments with another fifty. Outreach is focusing on business meetings and steering committees to get across his message. A side benefit is that we get firsthand information about which meetings are still being held and where new ones are. Alfred and Tom could use more help in this endeavor and distributed packets for those interested.

Night Owl Report: Dianne presented the April night owl report. She has managed to fill every open shift and even has people on a waiting list. Dianne added that Night Owl operators should *never* give out the phone numbers of people on the 12th step list, other volunteers, or staff members.

Upcoming Events:

Open House – Roxi S. Saturday June 24, 11am to 3 pm. No veggie burgers! (a joke! - editor)

Old Timers' Recognition & Ice Cream Social – Tom S. September 16 at 2 PM.

Fall Workshop – Renee B. October 3.

Gratitude Night – Jeff T. November 18, a male speaker is needed.

New Years' Eve – Marty M. December 31.

Old Business:

A Thank You letter will be sent to the Women's Conference for their generous donation.

Spring Fling 2006 went well and turnout was huge. There was some debate from those who like the "old way" where we held a dinner with the dance. See below

New Business:

Spring Fling 2007 A consensus is being taken as to how next year's event will be planned. Intergroup used to hold a catered dinner, but as interest waned, the cost became less manageable. In order to rent a dinner hall and have it catered, we would need to charge \$25+ per person, something a lot of people aren't willing to do.

Non-Conference Approved Literature is something people have been asking for. Our office has many loyal supporters, many of whom would like to support us by purchasing non-conference books and tapes. There are no hard and fast rules for handling this and about half of Intergroup offices do carry these texts. Tradition six would steer us away from this, as would our many supporters who are against it.

Group Announcements

Michael K presented concept V.

Suzanne volunteered to present concept VI in June.

Jon C presented the May 16 mock rep report.

Lisa L volunteered to present the June mock rep report.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

Remembering Bob S. — 51 Years of Service to the Fellowship of AA

I met Bob S. at the Shoreview 12 x 12 meeting in the Fall of 1994. After completing a court ordered 12 meetings at Spruce Street I decided to try a regular weekly meeting. Bob had already been in AA for forty years and was always generous with his time for newcomers.

Over the next few years I traveled with Bob to roundups in Duluth, Superior and to the Gopher State Roundup. We also attended Gratitude Night in downtown St. Paul and Founders' Days at the Thunderbird Hotel.

We heard many of AA's best speakers at these roundups. Bob would always want to sit close to the front and, no matter how long the line, would always want to meet the speakers afterwards.

At the Superior Roundup sometime in the mid 1990s we heard John A. from Dallas. It was the one speech that still stands out in my mind. Bob bought the tape and we both listened to it many times.

Bob loved the fellowship and the food at these roundups, especially Gopher State. We would make the rounds of all the various clubs at the Radisson South. Bob was never happier than when surrounded by AA people. He had so many stories and so many friends in AA.

I vividly remember the countdowns at the Gopher State Roundups when almost everyone had taken their seat and Bob was still standing, at that time some 40+ years sober, one day at a time.

Bob was about 56 years old when he was forced into early retirement from his job as a welder for Indianhead trucking company due to arthritis. After retiring Bob answered a newspaper ad from a legally blind man who wanted to hire someone to take him fishing. Julius had been a custom cabinet maker who made furniture for law firms.

Bob would pick Julius up and take him fishing during summers. They quickly became good friends and Julius and Bob would frequently eat breakfast or lunch at one of the Embers restaurants owned by Julius' son.

In the mid 1990's Bob was regularly attending three AA meetings a Week. Wednesday nights in Maplewood with his friend Cowboy Dave, Friday nights in Shoreview, and Sunday mornings on Payne Avenue on the east side of St. Paul. Bob was born and raised on the east side of St. Paul and stayed in touch with the area his whole life. I attended numerous meetings with Bob on Sunday mornings at the Alano club on Payne avenue. After the meetings we would occasionally go to the Masonic lodge across the street for a pancake breakfast.

Bob had a good friend named Don that was also a Mason and, like Bob, had been exposed to atomic radiation at the end of World War II when the Navy was conducting atomic weapons tests in the South Pacific.

Both Bob and Don had done a lot of research on the health affects to U.S. military personnel from atomic weapons tests. They researched articles and books by doctors and other experts to determine the health consequences to Navy personnel exposed to radiation and the effect on their future children.

After years of pursuing the Veterans Administration for a full disability due to radiation exposure while serving in World War II, Bob was finally granted 100% disability and was given back compensation for a number of years. Most people would have given up after a year or two, not Bob.

Bob was married to his wife Shirley for 52 years. Bob was still drinking during their first year of marriage. At the time that Bob entered AA he told me that Shirley wasn't speaking to him. That changed and Bob and Shirley went on to be married for 51 more years. Bob would often tell people in AA not to tell your spouse or other family members that "I'm Sorry" but rather "Watch Me." It made a big difference for Bob and many others who took his advice.

The \$2 Campaign

by Brian T.

(reprinted with permission from *Here's How*, newsletter of the Chicago Area Service Office*)

The Chicago Area is embarking on a campaign to encourage members to put \$2 in the basket at AA meetings instead of \$1. Of course, any amount any member gives is appreciated and there is no presumption anyone should give more. But \$1 in the basket has become habit. We just need to encourage those who can afford it to make it a habit to put \$2 in the basket.

Many have seen the poster, produced by Akron AA, that compares prices in various years to the "standard" donation to AA. The chart uses this data:

	Can of Cola	Pack of Cigarettes	Gallon of Gasoline	Standard AA Contribution
1960	10 ¢	25 ¢	22 ¢	\$1.00
1970	20 ¢	65 ¢	35 ¢	\$1.00
1980	35 ¢	\$1.65	90 ¢	\$1.00
1990	50 ¢	\$2.00	\$1.10	\$1.00
2000	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$1.25	\$1.00
2006	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.75	\$2.00

"Today's dollar only has 16 cents of the purchasing power of a 1960's dollar" says the poster.

The real question, I believe, is one of gratitude. I am grateful to AA for literally saving my life; I would not be alive if it was not for AA and the AA program. today, I believe that I need to show that gratitude in the basket. "where money and spirituality mix." I spent thousands on alcohol. I spent additional thousands showing off with grandiose plans that came to nothing. today, I just need to live my life living and working the AA program. I believe part of that is to be generous in my contribution to AA, both money-wise and in service. When the basket is passed, I need to remember what our program has meant to me.

While this campaign is not "conference approved," it is not just a campaign for Chicago in general or CASO in particular. It is a campaign to help cover the escalating cost of AA at the group, district, area, national and world levels. Just in Chicago, this includes the handling of thousands on Internet contacts, thousands of 12th Step Calls,, sponsorship of regional meetings, and active contact with treatment facilities and correctional institutions. Your \$2 in the basket helps support AA bookstores and resource centers. Your increased donation covers the cost of inflation on many fronts, including higher rents at meeting locations, higher office management expenses, and more support of volunteer workers.

Chicago is producing two posters about the \$2 campaign. We will provide them to any group that wants to display them. We also still have copies of the Akron poster from 2003. Please bring up the campaign in the meetings you attend. For posters or for more information, call your Chicago Area Service Office at (312) 346-1475 or email us at CASO@ChicagoAA.org.

*A few numbers have been changed to reflect prices at the current publishing date, June 2006.

7th Tradition Suggestions For Groups

“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Your group can make an informed decision regarding contributions with information from A.A. World Services. The information below is a suggestion taken from the pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix.”

50% St. Paul Intergroup
 Spruce Tree Center
 1600 University Ave. #407
 St. Paul, MN 55104

30 % General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163

10% Southern MN Area 36
 Area Assembly
 P.O. Box 2812
 Mpls., MN 55402

10% District Committee

Ramsey County:
 District 8, P.O. Box 2267
 St. Paul, MN 55102

Dakota County:
 District 19, P.O. Box 1466
 Burnsville, MN 55337

Washington County:
 District 15, P.O. Box 181
 Lake Elmo, MN 55042

SE Ramsey County:
 District 26, P.O. Box 75980
 St. Paul, MN 55175

INTERGROUP INCOME FOR MAY

Total Group Contributions:
 \$1766.55

Number Groups Contributing: 19
 Number of Faithful Fivers: 11
 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$267.00

District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)
 Fairview Community Center
 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville
 3rd Wed., 7:30 PM


District 15 (Wash. Co.)
 Christ Lutheran Church
 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo
 4th Mon., 7:00 PM

District 19 (Dakota Co.)
 Rosemount Community Center
 13885 South Robert Trail
 2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)
 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul
 2nd Fri., 6:00 PM
 www.district26-area36.org

Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Intergroup Office during April!

A. J., Anne, Barbara, Dan K, Dawn S., Earley, Eliot, Jerry B, Jim, Julio, Kelly S, Kris, Kristine, Matt R, Michael K., Miranda H., Ross, Roxi S., Russel H., Stu, Teresa, Tom, Val, Valerie M.



Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!

12th Step Opportunity

Women’s Workhouse AA meeting
 Volunteers of America
 Dale and Larpenteur, St. Paul
 Saturday, 11:00 AM, Tuesday 4 - 5 PM
 You’ll need a background check (paid for).
 Women only, please.

“Thanks!” to all of the groups that contributed in May:

Cliffhangers III
 Dry Dockers AA
 Highland Park AA
 Meeting of the Waters
 Midway AA
 Mon. 8 PM Open Meeting
 No Time Like the Present
 P.O.P.
 Peace & Serenity AA
 Red Wing AA
 River Rats
 Shoreview Big Book Plus
 Short Stories AA
 St. Croix Valley AA
 St. Luke Sat. AA
 Third Edition AA
 Tradition 3
 Uptown AA
 White Bear Lake Area AA

BE A NIGHT OWL !!

A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer phones during the hours that Intergroup is closed. Some shifts can be done in the office; all can be done from home. The commitment can be filled by an individual or a group. Taking on a Night Owl commitment means that when still suffering alcoholics call AA for help, they find another alcoholic at the other end of the line. When you or your group sign up to take a shift, you are trained in how to respond to calls and given all of the needed materials. **If you can help, please call Katie at the office or you can go to our website at www.aastpaul.org .**

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is a monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. (Exception: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.; The A.A. Preamble is reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) We welcome articles of opinion or descriptions of personal experience (no poetry, please), which should be sent to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #407, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and contents that may violate A.A.’s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 2nd of the preceding month.

UPCOMING EVENTS!!

**“A new freedom and a new happiness”
31st Annual Atlanta Round Up**

July 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006
Atlanta, GA 30328
More Information: 770-395-3900

Greater Minneapolis Intergroup
Summer Open House
Saturday July 29, 2006, 9am—1pm
7204 West 27th Street, Suite 113
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Area 36 Committee Meetings

Standing Committees & Area Committee Meet
Saturday, August 12, 2006
Best Western, Mankato MN

Cornhusker Roundup XXIX

August 17, 18, 19 & 20
Omaha, Nebraska
www.AA-Cornhusker.org

**Experience the Serenity
16th Annual Heartland Round-Up**

September 8 - 10, 2006
Northern Pines Assembly Grounds
Fishhook Lake—Park Rapids, MN
More Information:
218-573-3620

St. Paul AA Intergroup
**Old-Timers' Recognition
&
Ice Cream Social**
Saturday, September 16th, 2006
Lutheran Church of the Reformation
285 North Dale St., St. Paul, MN 55103

The 18th Annual
Hiawathaland Get-Together

October 20, 21, & 22, 2006
Holiday Inn, Austin, MN
Registration forms at Intergroup office.

Founder's Day Weekend, 2006

November 24 – 26.
Doubletree Park Place Hotel
St. Louis Park, MN
[www.FOUNDERSDAYMN.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSDAYMN.org)

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

The July Representatives' meeting will be held July 18, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.

The Twelve Concepts: Concept VII

“The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.”

“This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the powerful traditional influence of the Charter itself. It derives from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking, it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.”

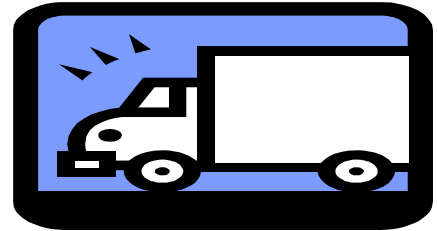
--Reprinted from Twelve Concepts for World Service, p. 29, with permission from AA World Services Inc.

St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W., Suite #407
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 7451

Please let us know if your address changes one month ahead of time. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of the Lifeline. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



St. Paul Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

Faithful Fivers contribute five dollars to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry the life-saving message of AA. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the *Lifeline*.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please send this form and a check to:

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W. #407, St. Paul MN 55104