



STEP THREE ESSAY

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

This step, I believe is the foundation of sobriety. If your recovery is built on rock and not sand it can weather any storm and still be standing. First is the will part, "our will" is nothing less than self-centeredness that will only satisfy our ego. The expression "I want what I want, when I want it" is driven by our ego and until you try and surrender it you are probably going to hear a lot of "well you asked for it." I think our will starts in how we think, and we are used to thinking in a certain way. Our whole life experience is nothing more than the outer expression of our inner thoughts. The good news is we can change our thinking and our minds. By doing that we can align our thoughts to God. "As I think so I am" could be a blessing to everyone. In every situation we can ask for help by pausing, and asking God to direct our thoughts. If I am thinking about doing the loving thing in all aspects of my life instead of what I want, then I am turning my will over to God as I understand Him. The second part is turning over our lives and this is how we can let go of our will. This part is in the action of what we do, and what we say. In recovery holding yourself accountable for what you say you're going to do is a way of turning your life over to God as you understand him. Being a caring, compassionate and loving person to all you come in contact with is living unselfishly. In the Third Step the part that stands out is "care of God" and understanding that God cares for everyone helps me deal with acceptance, and to understand that nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Thy will, not mine be done.

— Thanks to "Brooklyn" John C.

St. Paul AA Intergroup Spring Traditions Workshop

Saturday March 17th, 10AM

Coffee and Donuts

A Panel Presentation on Tradition Two

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer,

285 Dale St. North, just south of I-94.

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Fax: 651-290-0209

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

The Twelve Concepts: Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

. . . every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right “to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.” This is “the essence of “The Right of Decision.”

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups *instruct* their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, “our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.”

Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through its subsidiary boards, “were to attempt to manage” the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine “in detail, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot.”

-Reprinted from the pamphlet, *The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated*, by permission of AA World Services, Inc.

Tradition Three

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought our membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three gathered for sobriety may call themselves a group in our program, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Tradition Three defines the personal liberty of the AA member. It says, in effect, that any alcoholic can be an AA member the moment he says so. Neither can any of us deprive him of that membership, no matter what his behavior. Perhaps no other society has ever staked out such a broad expanse of liberty for the individual as this. Every AA newcomer feels at once that he is wanted and trusted and loved. How well we understand his needs; certainly we have had them ourselves. Seldom has any alcoholic taken unfair advantage of that unlimited charter for freedom. We took this decision for individual freedom years ago. We are glad that we did; there has never been any cause for regret.

— Bill W., Reprinted with permission of the A.A. *Grapevine*, November 1960.

2007 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Louis C. and Jason V.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in January

Meeting information	210
Inventory hours	28
12th step calls	12
Temporary sponsor	22
Speaker request	9
Special events	5
Outside issues	47
Info for Professionals	5
Administrative	18
Other	49
Total Calls	406
Daily average	19.3
Visitors	112

**Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.*

St. Paul AA Intergroup Representatives Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2007

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30

II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read

III. The December minutes were approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report: December contributions = 69.2% of income, and above budget. Thanks to all 37 groups who contributed in December. December sales under budget.

Reviewed the 2006 Annual financial report: 155 groups contributed for 2006 and above budget. Overall, Intergroup had net income of \$21,778 – thanks to the groups and three large Special Contributions in 2006. There will be a \$5700 transfer made to the Prudent Reserve, giving us about a 4 ½ month reserve (2007 goal is to have 6 months prudent reserve for Intergroup).

V. The Office Report by Tom N. The office's literature 'round table' will be replaced with a display case. An Office inventory was done in December. Price lists are available to all; Please pick up the 'pink' volunteer sheet(s) and distribute at meetings. Volunteers and 12th step people are needed on the list. New DCM and GSO pamphlets were passed around.

VI. Website Report. Web-traffic is consistent, and Jonathan stays on top of all changes. Groups are encouraged to send meeting information and/or event flyers (in PDF format, please) to webservant@aastpaul.org for posting.

VII. Outreach Program. Jeff T. gave a brief overview of the program. Please email outreach@aastpaul.org for more information and how you can get involved. In 2006, only 155 groups (out of over 560 in our area) were represented at Intergroup. Help spread the word -- Intergroup is YOUR group, your voice, your central office.

VIII. Night Owl Report. Diane reported there are 4-5 openings for Night Owl; please contact Tom at the office if you/your group is interested in taking a schedule. Email nightowl@aastpaul.org for more info.

IX. Upcoming Events.

Night Owl Appreciation Night – January 21st 7 PM at Lutheran Church of The Redeemer – Pizza & beverages. Fun!

Spring Traditions Workshop. (Tradition 2). Tentatively March 17th; a "donuts & coffee" format. More details next month.

Spring Fling. Tentatively a Saturday April, Spaghetti Dinner?, Speaker, Dance. More will be revealed (next month).

Groups and officers in attendance:			
Brooklyn John - West End	Kurt N. - HJF	Jon C - 3 rd Ed	Shelly S. - Women's
Val L. - BtoB, Burnsville	Kristin Y - Basic Text	Matt Z - Roseville Wed	Lisa L - NTLP
Lee B. - Como BB	Judith F - Macalester Mon. Step	Diane E - Prof. Alterations	Ken D - SOS
Sondra E - Maplewood Alano	Nelly C - Rosemount	David A - Rosemount	Michael K - Defogged
Richard U - Midway	Suzanne B - Mendota Sat.	Tom S - Alternate Chair	Lesli D - Board Secretary
Jeff T - Chair	Tom N - Office Mgr	Jason V - Board	Marty M - Board advisor

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

BE A NIGHT OWL !!

Night Owls are often the first AA contact for the newcomer! A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer Intergroup phones after hours. 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. **If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: www.aastpaul.org**

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 Office during January!

A.J., Andy B., Ann, Anne,
Brad T., Brigham M., Dan
N., Dave, Donald, Donna,
Eliot, Frank D., Gary, Gil,
Jacklyn, Larry T., Lynette,
Matt, Mike A., Val.

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



INTERGROUP INCOME FOR JANUARY

Number Group Contributions: 39
Total Group Contributions: \$3562
Number of Faithful Fivers: 23
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$482.00
Special Contributions: \$215.70

"Thanks!" to the groups that contributed in January:

Basic Text AA

Basic Text Women's Group

Burnsville Eagan Savage Tues. BB

Cliffhangers III

Dakota Alano Thursday 11:45 AM

East Side Squad 6

Fellowship Group

Forest Lake AA Groups

Grover's AA

Happy Hour AA

Happy Joyous & Free AA

Highland Park AA

Live & Let Live AA

Maplewood AA

Midway AA

Monday Meeting

Observing Recovery Victoriously AA

Primary Purpose

Primary Purpose Burnsville

Red Wing AA

River Rats

Shoreview Big Book Plus

Short Stories AA

Spiritual Traditions Group

Thank God It's Friday

Third Tradition Group

Thurs. Night Lake Elmo AA

Uptown Groups

Valley Creek Thurs Nite Group

We Care AA

Weekend Jumpstart II

White Bear Groups

White Bear Women's Wed. AM Group

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, 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.

ST. PAUL AA INTERGROUP UPCOMING EVENTS!!

Third Annual ***BIG OLE ROUNDUP***

“Let Go and Let God”

March 16-18, 2007
Alexandria, MN—The Heart of the Lakes Area
Holiday INN Alexandria, Just South of I-94

St. Paul Intergroup **Spring Traditions Workshop**

A panel discussion of TRADITION TWO.
Saturday, March 17th, 10AM
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 Dale St., just South of I-94.

COFFEE and DONUTS

20th Anniversary **Aim For Ames Roundup**

“Follow the Path”

Quality Inn & Suites—East 13th St. and I-35
March 30, 31 & April 1, 2007

WCRAASC West Central Regional Service Conference March 2nd - 4th, 2007

“Our 12th Step Responsibility - Are We Going to Any Length?”

Villager Courtyard and Gardens Hotel
Lincoln, NE

24th Annual **Minneapolis AA Gratitude Night** Saturday April, 14, 2007

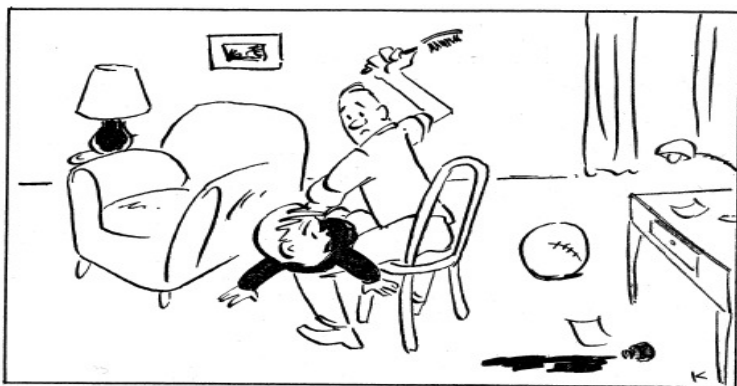
6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Program & Speakers
9:30 Dance—DJ

Minneapolis Convention Center

Gopher State Round-Up XXXIV

May 25, 26, 27, 2007
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel
Bloomington, Minnesota
www.gopherstateroundup.org

Vintage Cartoons from the *AA Grapevine*, November



Remember your AA, pop— “Easy Does It ! ”



Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

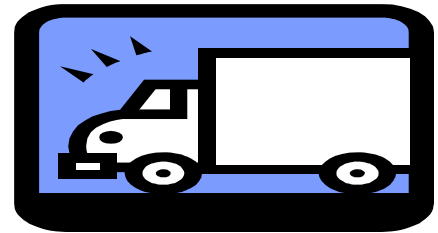
The March Representatives’ meeting will be held March 20, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
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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 our life-saving message. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the *Lifeline*. You may also contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

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