

The Lifeline



December, 2007

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 42, Issue 12

STEP TWELVE:

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Sometimes I wonder why this step is the last of the Twelve Steps. After all, the very beginning of AA can be said to have been the time when Bill W. was in Akron and realized that to resist the temptation to drink, he had to find another drunk to speak to. Even in early sobriety an alcoholic can benefit from starting to carry the AA message to fellow sufferers. An alcoholic who has been sober for only one day can be of service merely by sharing his or her experience, strength and hope at an AA meeting. And it is never too early to begin doing service work. I think it is useful here to quote from the chapter on Step Twelve in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: "Even the newest of the newcomers finds undreamed rewards as he tries to help his brother alcoholic, the one who is even blinder than he." To work Step Twelve one does not have to have perfectly worked the other eleven steps, a task which actually is impossible even for AA old-timers. As the Big Book states, "we claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection."

— Lynette F., Summit Women's Group

TRADITION TWELVE:

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Facts about anonymity in A.A.

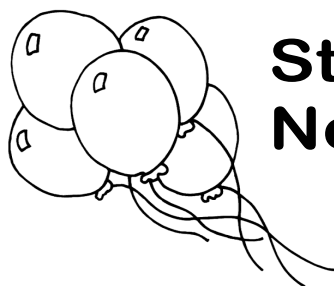
It is not the media's responsibility to maintain our Traditions; it is our own individual responsibility.

- A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest within the family.
- A.A. members may disclose their identity and speak as recovered alcoholics, giving radio, TV and Internet interviews, without violating the Traditions — so long as their A.A. membership is not revealed.
- A.A. members may speak as A.A. *members* only if their names or faces are not revealed. They speak not for A.A. but as individual members.

Experience suggests that A.A. members:

- Respect the right of other members to maintain their own anonymity at whatever levels they wish.
- When speaking as A.A. members at non-A.A. meetings, usually use first names only.
- Maintain personal anonymity in articles and autobiographies.
- Avoid the use of titles such as "A.A. counselor" when employed as professionals in the field of alcoholism (the title "alcoholism counselor" is preferred).
- Use last names within the Fellowship, especially for election of group officers and other service jobs.

From the A.A. World Services pamphlet, "Understanding Anonymity," reprinted with permission.



St. Paul Intergroup New Years Eve Celebration!!!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 N. Dale Street, just south of I-94
7PM Speaker 9PM Dance & Marathon Meeting



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

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

The Twelve Concepts: Concept XII, The General Warranties

Warranty One: "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power." The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member's donations, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." And if we live by Tradition Two — that "our ultimate authority is a loving God" and that "our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern" — then we are safe from perilous power.

Warranty Two: "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle." Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting "A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant." Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year's operating expenses of the G.S.O. and the Grapevine. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

Warranty Three: "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others." This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but "it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty" — a "strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure."

Warranty Four: "That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity." This Warranty is on the one hand, "a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision."

Warranty Five: "That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy." Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary.

When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishments. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.

For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

Some situations which may require Conference consideration are:

A.A. may come under "sharp public attack or heavy ridicule" - perhaps "With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever - namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this *privately* to the critics - with our thanks.

Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. "Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion."

"Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention." As G.S.O. "is not a police operation," we can only offer A.A.'s experience as a matter of information.

Warranty Six: "That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

"Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.'s freedom under God. We expect our Conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love - one member to another.

"Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty."

Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)

The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Steve B.

September minutes were approved with one amendment: "The Night Owl workshop is on October 27th (not October 20th)".

Office Report --Tom N. A) Tom attended annual Intergroup/Central Office staff seminar in Oklahoma City; was very informative; B) Many new items are coming soon from World Services—stop by the office for more more info.

Treasurer's Report. Mary Jo. We received \$4380 from Gopher State; Sept. contributions were \$3526 (above budgets); Sales were \$5090 (above budget); Expenses are below budget and we're on track. Question was raised about the Prudent Reserve amount (\$19,000): The Committee has a goal of retaining 6 months' reserve, which is the average of most U.S. Intergroup offices.

Website Report – Jonathan provided report with web usage stats; New website is stable; Jonathan looking for volunteers with php/mysql experience to help with site.

Outreach Program – Alfred K. A) Visited more meetings (Forest Lake, South ST. Paul, Eastside). B) The Lifeline essays are being used at meetings—please keep sharing essays... a great way to serve.

Night Owl Report – Diane. A) There will be a Night Owl Workshop on October 27th, 10 am til 12pm at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – coffee, treats, workshop and orientation – come one, come all! B) Shifts are full thru November!

Intergroup Events.

Fall Workshop – Alfred. This was held October 9th ; great sharing—thanks to all who volunteered!

Gratitude Night November 17th – Tom S. Flyers handed out, 2 great speakers: Angela & Angie. All urged to help us celebrate gratitude and 50 years of the St. Paul Intergroup Council.

Old Business:

By-Laws Committee: Marty M. A) Draft will be reviewed by Board and will endeavor to bring to the November meeting for presentation; Will also get an 'on-line' copy posted for I'Group members. Once presented, the committee will schedule a special "Q&A" meeting prior to the final voting date in December.

New Business

Nominations for November elections: A) 9 nominations were accepted for the 4 open positions: Nominees: Lisa L, Lee B, Suzanne, Mark K. for At-Large position; Shelly S for Secretary; Lesli D, Diane M for Treasurer; Lesli D, Mary Jo N for Alternate Chair. B) Nominees are encouraged to share service experience at November meeting; C) All members should prepare for a longer-than-usual November meeting in order to get through the Third Legacy Procedures of voting.

Group Announcements or Concerns.

New Brighton BB mtg Sunday AM's; Midway pancake breakfast Nov 11th; e; David looking for speakers for Nov/Dec—his # is 651.387.5339; Founder's Day Weekend is Nov. 23-25 info at www.foundersdaymn.net.

Concept Review (X) --Thanks to Jon C. on a great job! Matt Z. volunteered for November, Concept XI.

Mock Rep Report. Thanks, Lisa L. for tonight's report! Claire volunteered for November.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

Groups & Officers in Attendance:

Marty M-Board	Steve B-Board	Alfred K-Board	Richard U—Midway
Mark K-Uptown	Claire G-Women's AA	Jan B-Mac/Plymouth	Jon C-3 rd Edition
Matt Z-Roseville Wed	Greg M-OMD	Donald B-Main Idea Tues	Duane W-Uptown
Christine P-Mplwd AA	Diane E-Night Owl Coord.	Lisa L-NTLP	Tom S-Board
Jeff T-Board Chair	Lesli D-Board	Tom N-Office Mgr	Peggy B-District 19
Eric H-West End	Jason H-Rosemount	Rey H-Defogged Men's	Val L-Back to Basics
Shelly S-Mon. Women 12x12	Mary Jo N-Board	David M—Midway	Suzanne—Mendota

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20th

<p>7th Tradition Suggestions for Groups</p> <p>"Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."</p> <p>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."</p>	<p>BE A NIGHT OWL !!</p> <p>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</p>	<p>INTERGROUP INCOME FOR OCTOBER</p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 49 Total Group Contributions: \$6,004.13 Number of Faithful Fivers: 22 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$505.00</p>																																																	
<p>50% St. Paul Intergroup Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p>30% General Service Office P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p>10% Southern MN Area 36 Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p>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</p>	<p>District Meetings</p> <p>District 8 (Ramsey Co.) Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville 3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</p> <p>District 15 (Wash. Co.) Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo 4th Mon., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 19 (Dakota Co.) Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail 2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.) 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul 2nd Fri., 6:00 PM</p>	<p>"Thanks!" to the groups that contributed in October:</p>																																																	
<p>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during October!</p> <p>Andy B., Michelle, Frank D., Russell, Jack Ri., Amy, Megan, Rian, Lynette, Charisma, Eliot, Jack Ro., Tommy, Amy, Charlie, Eily, Roby, Tonny, John M., Tracy, Val L., Kevin</p> <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p> 	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Amigos III</td><td>New Brighton Alano</td></tr> <tr><td>Apple Valley Fri. Night</td><td>North Dale AA</td></tr> <tr><td>Burnsville Eagan Savage</td><td>Peace & Serenity Group</td></tr> <tr><td>Cliffhangers III</td><td>Primary Purpose</td></tr> <tr><td>Club 84</td><td>Ridge Runners I</td></tr> <tr><td>Como Park 12 & 12</td><td>Ridge Runners II</td></tr> <tr><td>Como Park Big Book</td><td>Rosemount AA</td></tr> <tr><td>Dakota Alano</td><td>Shalom Group</td></tr> <tr><td>Day By Dei</td><td>Short Stories</td></tr> <tr><td>Defogged Men's Group</td><td>South Suburban</td></tr> <tr><td>Eagan Tuesday Nighters</td><td>Spiritual Traditions</td></tr> <tr><td>Eastside Squad 6</td><td>Steps To Freedom</td></tr> <tr><td>Fireside Women's</td><td>St. Paul Speaker Meeting</td></tr> <tr><td>Happy, Joyous & Free</td><td>St. Thomas</td></tr> <tr><td>Hillside Buck Hill</td><td>TGIF Macalester</td></tr> <tr><td>Highland Park AA</td><td>3rd Tradition Northfield</td></tr> <tr><td>Just For Today Women's</td><td>Thurs. Night Lake Elmo</td></tr> <tr><td>Lindstrom 12 & 12</td><td>Two Alternatives</td></tr> <tr><td>Live and Let Live</td><td>Uptown Club</td></tr> <tr><td>Maplewood Groups</td><td>Weekend Jumpstart</td></tr> <tr><td>Meeting of the Waters</td><td>White Bear Lake AA</td></tr> <tr><td>Mendota Sat. 9 AM</td><td>White Bear Wed. AM</td></tr> <tr><td>Mendota Sat 10:30 AM</td><td>Women's 12 & 12</td></tr> <tr><td>Midway Club</td><td>Worthwhile Women's</td></tr> <tr><td>New Brighton Squad 14</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Amigos III	New Brighton Alano	Apple Valley Fri. Night	North Dale AA	Burnsville Eagan Savage	Peace & Serenity Group	Cliffhangers III	Primary Purpose	Club 84	Ridge Runners I	Como Park 12 & 12	Ridge Runners II	Como Park Big Book	Rosemount AA	Dakota Alano	Shalom Group	Day By Dei	Short Stories	Defogged Men's Group	South Suburban	Eagan Tuesday Nighters	Spiritual Traditions	Eastside Squad 6	Steps To Freedom	Fireside Women's	St. Paul Speaker Meeting	Happy, Joyous & Free	St. Thomas	Hillside Buck Hill	TGIF Macalester	Highland Park AA	3rd Tradition Northfield	Just For Today Women's	Thurs. Night Lake Elmo	Lindstrom 12 & 12	Two Alternatives	Live and Let Live	Uptown Club	Maplewood Groups	Weekend Jumpstart	Meeting of the Waters	White Bear Lake AA	Mendota Sat. 9 AM	White Bear Wed. AM	Mendota Sat 10:30 AM	Women's 12 & 12	Midway Club	Worthwhile Women's	New Brighton Squad 14	
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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!!

<p>Southern MN Area Committee Meetings</p> <p>Best Western, Mankato, MN December 1st, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM</p> <p>www.area36.org</p>	<p>Saint Paul Intergroup <i>New Year's Eve Celebration</i></p> <p>Speaker ~ Marathon Meetings ~ Dance</p> <p>Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 285 Dale Street North</p> <p>Monday, 31 December 2007 7:00 PM</p>
<p>Recovery, Unity & Service Conference sponsored by the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly</p> <p>January 4 to 6, 2008 Marriott Minneapolis West, St. Louis Park</p>	<p>Study & Action Group "Precisely how we have recovered"</p> <p>Hopkins United Methodist Church - Hopkins, MN Starting Sunday, January 6, 2008</p> <p>www.into-action.com</p>
<p>Wild Rice Roundup <i>Lose Your Winter Blues</i></p> <p>Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center Mahnomon, MN January 18-20, 2008</p> <p>dgrain@arvig.net Fred: 218-935-5007</p>	<p>44th Annual International Women's Conference</p> <p>"The Language of the Heart Will be Spoken Here"</p> <p>Portland, Oregon Thursday, 2/18/2008 – Saturday, 2/16/2008</p> <p>internationalwomensconference.org</p>

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

The December Representatives' meeting will be held December 18th, 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.

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>	Jeff H. and Steve B.
<u>Members at Large 2006:</u>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in October

Meeting information	219
Inventory hours	27
12th step calls	22
Temporary sponsor	15
Speaker request	10
Special events	0
Outside issues	37
Info for Professionals	3
Administrative	92
Other	37
Total Calls	462
Daily average	20.1
Visitors	146

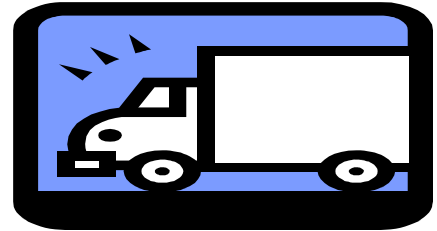
*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.

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

Change Service Requested

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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