



STEP FIVE: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

The following is from an essay by A.A. co-founder Bill W., from the June, 1958 A.A. Grapevine, reprinted from The Language of the Heart with permission of A.A. World Services.

My twenty-fourth A.A. anniversary is just ahead; I haven't had a drink in all this time. In fact, I've scarcely been tempted at all. This is some evidence that I must have taken and ever since maintained Step One: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable." Step One was easy for me.

Then, at the very beginning, I was fortunate enough to receive a tremendous spiritual awakening and was instantly "made conscious of the presence of God" and "restored to sanity" - at least so far as alcohol is concerned. Therefore I've had no difficulty with AA's Step Two because, in my case, its content was an outright gift. Step Four and Step Five, dealing with self-survey and confession of one's defects, have not been overly difficult, either.

Of course, my self-analysis has frequently been faulty. Sometimes I've failed to share my defects with the right people; at other times, I've confessed their defects, rather than my own; and at still other times, my confession of defects has been more in the nature of loud complaints about my circumstances and my problems.

Nevertheless, I think I've usually been able to make a fairly thorough and searching job of finding and admitting my personal defects. So far as I know, there isn't at this moment a single defect or current problem of mine which hasn't been discussed with my close advisers. Yet this pretty well-ventilated condition is nothing for self-congratulation. Long ago I was lucky enough to see that I'd have to keep up my self-analysis or else blow my top completely. Though driven by stark necessity, this continuous self-revelation - to myself and to others - was rough medicine to take. But years of repetition has made this job far easier. Step Nine, making restitution for harms done, has fallen into much the same bracket.

The Twelve Concepts: Concept Five

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views.

This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

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

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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The Twelve Traditions: Tradition Five

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to those who still suffer.

This month our Traditions piece comes from an article by Co-founder Bill W., published in the October, 1949 Grapevine. It is amazing to see how much this article, written nearly 60 years ago, applies today. Because the Twelve Steps have been helpful to so many people facing problems other than alcohol, many have come to see that "a drug is a drug is a drug." The Twelve Step solution has helped thousands with gambling, relationship problems, etc. Shouldn't A.A. throw its doors open to every kind of spiritual and emotional suffering? Here, Bill helps us to understand the importance of A.A.'s singleness of purpose in maintaining the unity that is crucial to our survival.

Alcoholics Anonymous is fourteen years old. Yet no one thinks we are just entering adolescence. On the contrary, we are approaching maturity. Therefore our problems and responsibilities as a Society are on the increase. It is becoming clear we cannot be forever immune from the fearful pressures that are tearing modern society apart. Like other societies of men and women, we shall no doubt be tempted to enter upon serious controversies. Perhaps some of us will seek fame and fortune at the expense of Alcoholics Anonymous. We shall be tempted to attack those who attack us; we shall yearn for alliances with powerful friends; we shall wish to write laws and enter politics. It will be difficult to remain neutral in the science versus religion conflict; some might wish to see Alcoholics Anonymous divide along sectarian lines. And, as we become better known, we shall be offered large grants of destruction in the form of money; we might forget our resolve to stay poor. These may well be the crucial problems of our maturity; even now one sees their outlines.

Yet, I am deeply, yes, fervently convinced that Alcoholics Anonymous will weather all adversities and every test of time for so long as God shall need us. My faith in our future rests upon certain facts of our experience:

First, we now humbly gaze upon 80,000 miracles of personal recovery; we see that each of us has been enabled by God's grace to achieve the impossible. In each life, unity has risen far above former chaos. This being God's grant to us personally, we may, if we are worthy, surely expect an equal unity for AA as a whole.

Second, we are sure there must be a million alcoholics who would join Alcoholics Anonymous tomorrow if only they knew what we do. We keenly realize that any fundamental disunity among us could instantly disillusion tens of thousands who would again turn their faces to the wall. Hence those disruptions common to great wealth, power, or controversy ought never be for us. Too many of the "millions who don't yet know" would surely die.

Therefore, our Fifth Tradition declares: "Each AA group ought to be a spiritual entity having *but one primary purpose*—that of carrying the message to the alcoholic that still suffers."

So long as we remain grateful for what has befallen us, and for so long as this Tradition of high and single purpose is indelibly emblazoned on our hearts, our destiny will be assured. We shall be worthy of God's Providence.

Reprinted from *Language of the Heart*, pp. 115-116, with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

2008 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Diane E.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Steve B. & Jeff H.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Lee B. & Lisa L.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in March*

Meeting information	217
Inventory/hours	41
12th step calls	20
Temporary sponsor	31
Speaker request	13
Special events	4
Outside issues	29
Info For Professionals	06
Administrative	142
Other	47
Total Calls	550
Daily average	26.2
Visitors	216

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

Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2008

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

The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Mary Jo N.

February minutes were approved & accepted by majority; 1 minority opinion: "Suggest full financial reports be part of the Reps' Minutes".

Treasurer's Report. Diane E. A) February contributions \$3,357 (above budget) –Thanks to the 30 groups who contributed this month. B) Feb. sales \$5,966 (above budget). C) Some questions on details: Detailed financials are handed out at the monthly meeting. The Finance Committee reviews these monthly and financials are approved at the Board meeting.

Office Report --Tom N. A) Financial & P/L reports are available at the Intergroup Office; B) Lifeline (monthly newsletter of SPIG) welcomes essays on Steps, Traditions, & Concepts from our group members. Deadline for submission is the Wednesday before the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call office if questions; C) AAWS has some DVD's (previously VHS) available at the office—please stop in & view selection(s); D) Office move went well and will be completed this month.

Website Report – Jonathan. A) Aided with office network move; B) Working on re-design for office maintenance usage; C) Web hosting service has upgraded their servers (have a complete backup of site); D) Proud to serve our 572 regular weekly meetings. Visit website (aastpaul.org) for more information.

Outreach Program – (Lee B III) Tom S stated that tonight's attendance (40) speaks to the success of the Program.

Night Owl Report – Patty S. A) All going well; some open shifts (handouts passed); B) We can still use volunteers for backup (current volunteers lose "shift" if miss 3 in a row); C) Reminder: Orientation is on the 3rd Sat of the month—RSVP's should be emailed (nightowl@aastpaul.org) 1 week in advance. If unable to attend, please contact night owl for 1-on-1 orientation training – Great Idea to bring your interested group members in for their own private group training.

Intergroup Events. Tradition Workshop March 1st Tradition 3. Went great! Four good speakers; had 30-35 attendees. Spring Fling April 19th at the Redeemer Church. 5:30 Spaghetti Dinner (NEW!), 7 PM Speakers: Esther H (AA) & Alanon Speaker; 9 PM DJ/Music & Dancing. All this for \$7 (\$5 for dinner only). See Tom N at the Office for Tickets. Encourage your group members and friends to come and "Fling in Spring"!

Old Business:

By-Laws Committee: A) Marty and Tom S met with lawyer (same attorney that reviewed Mpls IG by-laws and, in answer to a question, he will receive compensation); B) More revisions will be required for this legal business document; C) The process of updating the by-laws is: Legal Review, Board Approval, Representative Review & Vote. D) The lawyer is willing to meet with us for more details of the Board's fiduciary relationship and legal implications of these documents; E) Our current By-Laws date back to 1964; were last amended in 1993. Our proposed By-Laws include all amendments voted on by Intergroup reps since 1993. F) Anyone interested in acquiring copy of current By-Laws can contact the Office. G) The proposed By-Laws will be available to members after lawyer review and Board approval; We intend to post these on the website (www.aastpaul.org) AND plan on having a special By-Law Q&A session for all reps.

New Business

Julie B made a motion that the full financial reports be printed in the Lifeline. No member seconded this motion.

Julie B asked why By-Laws needed changing because they seem to be working just fine; Much discussion; Tom S reiterated the points made by Marty (see Old Business above).

Julie B made a motion that the Board Meetings should be open to all Reps. Discussion: Corporate Board meetings are closed due to business discussion (sensitive employee information, etc); Members can request to be invited to the Board; Board members are elected trusted servants to do the business of Intergroup. Motion was seconded ; more discussion of same content. Motion vote was NO unanimously.

Ron, a Gopher State Committee member, asked for pre-reg. & volunteers for Gopher State.

Group Announcements or Concerns: Many announcements of events – send flyers to webservant@aastpaul.org for posting.

Concept Review (III) – GREAT job by Patty S! Suzanne volunteered for April, Concept IV.

Mock Rep Report. Thanks, Christine P for tonight's report! Lesli volunteered for April.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

Groups & Officers in Attendance:

Angela S-Midway	Don D-St.Paul Spkr Mtg	Jeff T-Board Advisor	Matt H-OMD	Steve B-Board At-Large	Diane E- Treas/
Anthony C-New Brighton Sun AM	Donald B-Main Idea Tues 8pm	Jonathan-Web Servant	Mickey M-W End	Suzanne-Mendota 10:30 AA	Jeff H-Board At-Large
Barb H-Highland #11	E S-BB Stories	Julie B-SOS	Monty Z-WBL Mon. Night	Tom C-Shrww 12x12	Mary Jo N-Board Alt Chair
Betsy-Happy, Joyous, Free	Ellen H-Mahtomedi 12x12/ Amigos III	Lesli D-Board Secretary	Neal C-Roseville Wed	Tom N.-Office Manager	Mary Jo N-Board Alt Chair
Charlie S-NTPL	Jan B-McAlester/Plymouth	Lisa K-StudentsofLife	Patrick M-Applied Serenity101	Tom S-Board Chair	Walter-Como BB
Christine P-Mplwd AA	Jeff C-Summit Hill	Marty M-By-Law Comm	Patty S-Night Owl Coordinator	Tony C-Basic Txt	Wayne B-CliffHangers
Rey H-Defogged Mens	Val L-Back to Basics, Brnsvl				

Next Meeting: 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 15th

<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 Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix.”</p> <p>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u> Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p>30% <u>General Service Office</u> P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u> Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p>10% <u>District Committee</u></p> <p>Ramsey County: District 8, P.O. Box 2267 St. Paul, MN 55102</p> <p>Dakota County: District 19, P.O. Box 1466 Burnsville, MN 55337</p> <p>Washington County: District 15, P.O. Box 181 Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p> <p>SE Ramsey County: District 26, P.O. Box 75980 St. Paul, MN 55175</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><u>District Meetings</u></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 www.district26-area36.org</p> <p>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during March!</p> <p>Andy, Angela, Anthony, Bill S., Bob, Brit M., Carolyn, Chris, Chris C., Chuck, Cindy, Dustin, Eliot, Frank D., Gerry B., Greg, Holli E., Jack, Jack R., Julie B., Ken, Kris, Mia, Mike, Mike B., Nick, Rob, Ryan G., Schell, Taylor, Todd, Victor.</p> <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p>	<p>INTERGROUP INCOME FOR MARCH</p> <p>Number of Group Contributions: 28 Total Group Contributions:\$3,056.86 Number of Faithful Fivers: 15 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$310</p> <p>“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in March:</p> <p>11 West Bernard Groups 12 X 12 By the Book Basic Text Group Basic Text Women’s Group Como Area 12 x 12 Como Park Big Book Study Dakota Alano Friday PM Dakota Alano Thursday AM Day By Dei Fireside Women’s Groups Forest Lake Tues Men’s Four Seasons Group Gratitude Group Great Reality North End Group Grover’s Group Happy Hour Men’s Group Highland Park Groups Hillside Buck Hill Group Maplewood Groups North Branch Community Groups Ridge Runners II Group Rivertown Group Shoreview 12&12 Shoreview Big Book Plus Third Tradition Northfield Uptown Groups White Bear Groups White Bear Women’s Wed. AM</p>
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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 Wednesday before the third Tuesday of the month.

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

A Design for Living

38th Annual

Iron Range Get-Together

May 2nd - 4th

Wendigo Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

CAPITAL CITY CONFERENCE

"We Can Look the World in the Eye."

May 2nd and 3rd

Des Moines, Iowa

Downtown Marriott

www.capitalcityconference.org

St. Cloud Round-Up Spring Celebration of Recovery

Saturday, May 10

Moose Lodge, Waite Park, MN

Info: 320-398-6118

May 23 - 25, 2008

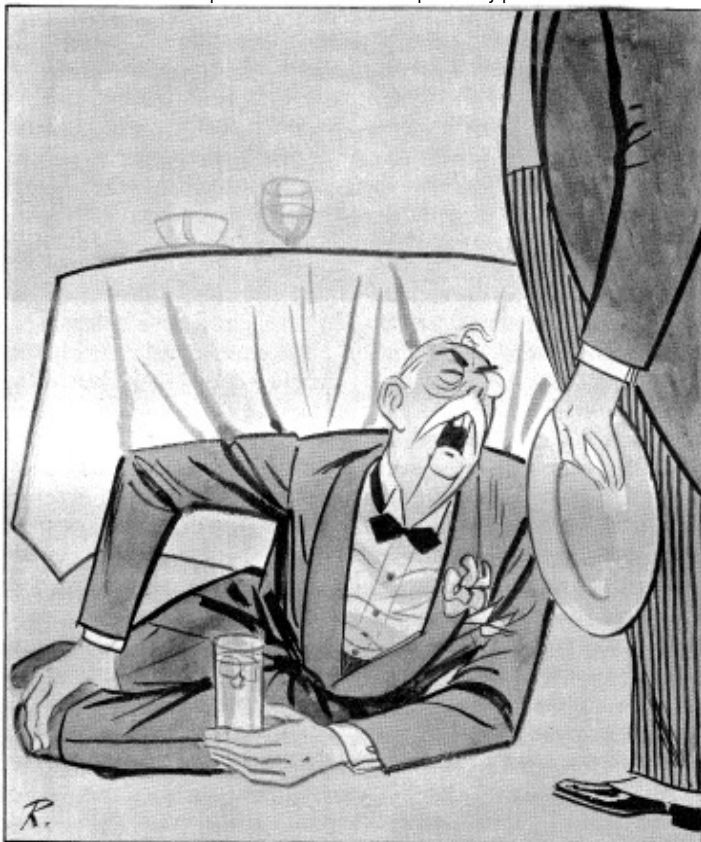
Gopher State Round-up

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

Bloomington, MN

www.gopherstateroundup.org

Cartoon reprinted from the A.A. Grapevine by permission.



"By gad, Elkins, how many times do I have to tell you? Only whiskey and soda—no ice!"

Area 36 Assembly

Saturday, 28 June 2008, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Best Western Victorian Inn, Hutchinson, MN

More Info: www.area36.org

St. Paul Intergroup Open House !!

Saturday, June 21nd, 11am to 3pm

Spruce Tree Centre

1600 University Ave. #407

University at Snelling, St. Paul

See the new office! Learn what Intergroup does!

Dear Bill,

What about plain ole ordinary whoopee parties?

— An Anonymous Drunk

"... our rule is not to avoid a place where there is drinking, *if we have a legitimate reason for being there*. That includes bars, nightclubs, dances, receptions, weddings, even plain ordinary whoopee parties."

From the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 101.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

The May Representatives' meeting will be held May 20th, 7:30 pm,

at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.

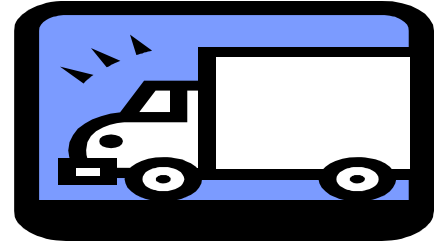
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

Change Service Requested

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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

I would like to receive the *Lifeline* every month by email, not postal mail. My email address is:

(please print clearly) _____