

# The Lifeline



October 2012

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 48, Issue 10

## **Step Ten: Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**

There is a guy in our group, a little older than I am, who'd been a regular in AA for about three years when I first started going to meetings a year and a half ago. I'd been to a few meetings in neighboring towns before I met him, and at my very first meeting with him he made me good and mad by saying that he didn't think anybody could get anywhere in AA who had ever been to a psychiatrist. That's what I thought he said. He claimed he'd only said that psychiatry makes it more difficult.

He and I have made Twelfth Step calls together and visited each other's homes. We get along pretty well. People in our group ride him some about his argumentative manner in meetings, but everybody enjoys him. He irritates me by getting a meeting off the track and bogged down into an argument over the meaning of a word. I think of him as the eternal collegian, because that's the way college kids acted when I was in college.

A few weeks ago, I shocked myself by telling him right out in meeting that what he said was the stupidest thing I'd ever heard and when he answered, I ended my contribution with, "Aw nuts!" In connection with a discussion of the twenty-four hour plan, there had been a lot of talk about planning and whether it was all right to plan so long as it was constructive planning, not just worry. Everybody seemed agreed that it was all right and I was already tired of this discussion when my friend said, "There's no such thing as planning anyway. All anybody ever did was just to schedule things." It was then that I let go my blast.

The discussion passed to other things and nobody seemed any the worse for my outburst. . .nobody but me.

I was really upset by my own behavior. That's why I'm writing this. This same man has accused me of taking other people's moral inventory for them and I'm beginning to see that he's right.

Take the fellow who gets me so all-fired mad because he talks as if he invented AA. He preaches, pontificates and acts as though he thinks he's God Almighty, but then, this is just my opinion and my reaction and what he says may be very helpful to others.

Then there are those two guys who have had a number of slips since I came into AA and who like to talk about their slips in meeting and what they've learned from their slips. They irritate me and my excuse is that this talk is no good for newcomers and that they should be quiet and maybe learn how not to slip by listening to some other people. I don't know what the effect of their stories is on newcomers. I'm just bored with it myself. I think what I'd better do is figure out some way of being a little humble and tolerant. Maybe my own contributions will be a cut or two above what they have been if I can keep from getting mad at what other people say. And if I can listen with an open mind, perhaps I'll learn something.

Thanks for the opportunity to take a short moral inventory.

- M. W., New Canaan, CT (Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc - March 1954 issue)

## **Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.**

Since an alcoholic will never be dictated to, I doubt whether he would ever maintain his sobriety if he were subject to any "organization," in the present accepted sense of that word. I feel also that the average AA member realizes that no man can live successfully if he is entirely isolated. He cannot really live happily and contentedly outside of a community.

In recognizing the community to which he now belongs, an AA is happy to accept the fact that certain conditions may be necessary for him to achieve and maintain his sober state. I think he also recognizes that tradition invariably comes from communal experience and, since the community is greater than the individual, he is again fully prepared to act upon that wisdom. He feels in no way organized, since the community to which he now belongs also permits him the power of choice.

*Organize*, according to my dictionary means "to put into working order." Is there a community anywhere in better working order than AA without one single directive being issued by any established authority?

In the British Parliamentary system there is used the phrase, "The House will divide." This operation takes place subsequent to the discussion of some controversial issue between the reigning Government and the Opposition.

What a tragedy if the house of AA were to divide--a state which might easily come about if we were to associate ourselves with outside issues or public controversy. We still possess the frailties of human nature, therefore in our case it is almost a certainty that we would be divided among ourselves. "A House divided amongst itself will surely fall." Our founders, in their wisdom, have protected us against such a disastrous contingency by formulating Tradition Ten.

-Archie P. (Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc - March 1959 issue)

### **St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®**

Web Site: [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)

E-mail: [lifeline@aastpaul.org](mailto:lifeline@aastpaul.org)

Fax: 651-290-0209

Office Hours: Monday through Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM

1600 University Avenue, W. Suite 214, St. Paul MN 55104

**From Your Intergroup Board...**

On Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul Intergroup will be hosting elections for 2013 Board members. If you are reading this article, you obviously care about St. Paul Intergroup and are committed to its success. I would personally like to see a large number of quality candidates standing for the positions that are currently open. This includes Alternate Treasurer (Officer), Alternate Board Chair (Officer), Secretary (Officer) and At-Large Members (2 – non-officer).

Qualifications, as listed in the By-Laws, are as follows: Each individual nominated shall state to the Member Groups that they are sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Officers shall have been sober for a period of three (3) or more continuous years at the beginning of their term of service. All other Board Members shall have been sober for a period of two (2) or more continuous years at the beginning of their term of service. These sobriety qualifications may be waived by majority vote of the Member Groups present at the annual meeting only when no qualified member has accepted nomination for that position. The individual shall also identify the Member Group that they attend.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Board Chair for St. Paul Intergroup this past year. Intergroup services are truly valuable to the A.A. community. This past year, we have done a lot of behind the scenes work to document staff and Board roles and responsibilities. We have also continued to serve the community through numerous, well-attended events. Outreach activities have continued with some progress being made.

I hope you will consider this service opportunity. In addition, I would ask that you share this information with others who are committed to service. Check the website for additional information.

- Denise A., Board Chair

**Notes From your Central Office...**

One of the more enjoyable things St. Paul Intergroup does during each year is hosting events. We hold a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, our Spring Fling, a Summer Open House, the Ice Cream Social, Gratitude Night and a New Years Eve party. In addition, we have had Hospitality Suites at both Gopher Sate and Founder’s Day roundups.

Some of these have a long history. The Spring Fling dinner and meeting (and sometimes dance) evolved from an annual banquet our Fellowship has been holding in St. Paul since the 1950s. The tradition of a sober New Years Eve party in St. Paul also goes far back. And this year’s Gratitude Night will be our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual, having begun just after St. Paul Area Intergroup was incorporated in 1966.

We began our Volunteer Appreciation dinner only a couple of years ago, to thank our office volunteers and Night Owls for their service. Our Open House where we serve picnic food began in 2004. And the Ice Cream Social, which features sharing by local A.A. members with 25 and more years of sobriety, began in 2001.

These events are a lot of fun, and wonderful opportunities to see and meet A.A.’s from all around our area. We hope we’ll see you too.

Thanks, St. Paul Area AA!

<b><u>2012 Steering Board</u></b>		<b><u>Office Calls in August</u></b>	
<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Denise A.</b>	Meeting information	138
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>Jean O.</b>	Inventory/hours	22
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Cedar H.</b>	12th Step calls	10
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Jeff M.</b>	Temporary sponsor	33
<b><u>Alt. Treasurer</u></b>	<b>Jim G.</b>	Speaker request	21
<b><u>Members at Large 2012:</u></b>	<b>Chris S. &amp; Wanda B.</b>	Special events	3
<b><u>Members at Large 2013:</u></b>	<b>Tim B. &amp; Eva P.</b>	Outside issues	26
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>John D.</b>	Info for professionals	3
		Administrative	60
		Other	73
		<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>389</b>
		<b>Daily average</b>	<b>16.9</b>
		Visitors	229

# UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

## Southern Minnesota - Area 36 Area Assembly

Hutchinson Event Center, Hutchinson, MN  
**Saturday October 13th 9AM - 5PM**  
[www.area36.org](http://www.area36.org)

## District 15 Fall Workshop Working Step Six & Seven

Fellowship Hall, Christ Lutheran Church  
 11194 36th Street North, Lake Elmo  
**Saturday, October 27th 11:30AM - 3:00PM**  
 Buffet Lunch begins at 11:30AM

## MNYPAA - MN Young People in A.A. 2012 State Conference Millenium Hotel

1313 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
**Friday, Oct. 26th - Sunday, Oct. 28th**  
[www.mnypaa.org](http://www.mnypaa.org)

30th Annual

## St. Cloud Roundup "We Aren't a Glum Lot"

River's Edge Convention Center  
 10 Fourth Ave S., St. Cloud, MN  
**Friday, Oct. 26th—Sunday Oct. 28th**  
 More info: 320-398-6118 or [kwood@meltel.net](mailto:kwood@meltel.net)

55th Annual

## Saint Paul Intergroup Gratitude Night

**Main Speaker: Joe C., Palm Coast, Forest Lake**  
**1 year Speaker: TBD**  
 The Recovery Church 253 State Street. St. Paul, MN  
**Saturday, Nov. 17th - 7:00PM**  
[www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)

72nd Annual

## Founder's Day Weekend

Doubletree Park Place Hotel  
 St. Louis Park, MN  
**Friday Nov. 23rd - Sunday, Nov. 25th**  
[www.foundersdaymn.org](http://www.foundersdaymn.org)

### Group and Area News

The **Tuesday Nighters** group in Eagan has changed their meeting time from 8:00pm to 7:30pm. They meet at the Faithful Shepherd Catholic School, 3355 Columbia Drive, Eagan, 55121.

It has been reported to us that the **Circle of Nations** group, which had met Tuesday evenings at the VFW, 648 Lawson Ave. E., in St. Paul, is no longer meeting,

### Your Group News?

We invite your group to share its news here!  
 Please send your items to [lifeline@aastpaul.org](mailto:lifeline@aastpaul.org).  
 We look forward to hearing from you.

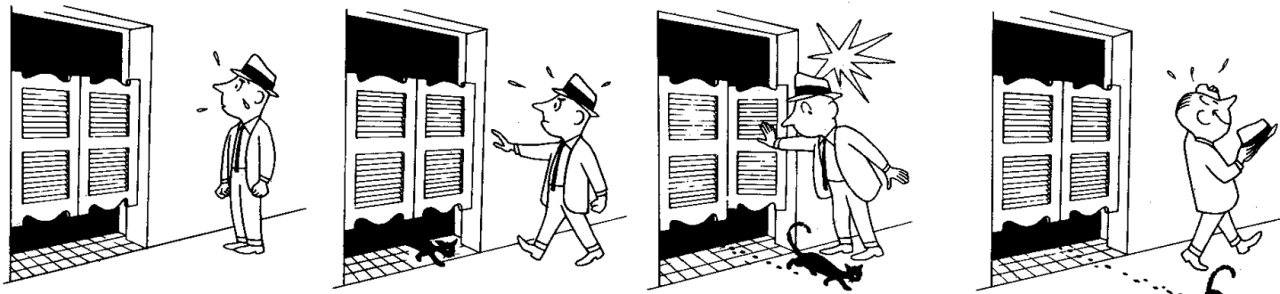
### Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops

#### By The Book 4th Step Workshop

Wednesdays, Nov 7th - Dec. 12th:  
 ~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~  
 2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
 For more info: [www.aabythebook.org](http://www.aabythebook.org)

#### Study & Action Group

Founder's Day Weekend Session,  
 Nov. 23rd - 25th - DoubleTree Hotel  
 1500 Park Place Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN  
 Capacity Limited to 150  
 For more info - email: [info@into-action.com](mailto:info@into-action.com)



Victor E. cartoon Reprinted with permission of the Grapevine, Inc.

**St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, August 21, 2012**

- I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, Introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
- II. Last month's Minutes were approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Jeff M. informs the Reps that YTD we have a \$1,200 profit, although income from sales and contributions is considerably below budget. Our low expenses and responsible balance sheet (practically no debt, lots of assets) keeps SPI where it needs to be. Questions/concerns can be sent to Jeff M. at [treasurer@aastpaul.org](mailto:treasurer@aastpaul.org).
- IV. The Office Report – Frank N. reminds us that the Office continues to seek submissions of writing, cartoons, and/or jokes from individuals for inclusion in the *Lifeline*. A positive indicator: in the first six months of 2012, the Office has sold more than 5,800 medallions! Please see the *Lifeline* for more interesting sales figures. Intergroup will host a Hospitality Suite and sell literature at Founder's Day this year at the Doubletree in St. Louis Park. Volunteers needed! Contact Frank to volunteer on an individual or group basis.
- V. The Website Report – Jonathan reports that the website lists 655 regular weekly meetings by 280 groups. Website traffic is up from June. The full usage report is available on the website. Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan ([webservant@aastpaul.org](mailto:webservant@aastpaul.org)) or the Office for AA-related events which can be added. Guidelines are available on the site. Remember to submit your flyers (with AA-related content) for inclusion on the website.
- VI. Outreach Program – Female volunteers needed to visit womens' meetings, and Spanish speakers are needed to visit Spanish-language meetings! Progress continues. Contact Chris (320-444-4780 or [outreach@aastpaul.org](mailto:outreach@aastpaul.org)) or the Office if you can help with this important service opportunity.
- VII. Night Owl Report – There are four open shifts available. Please visit the website or call the Office for more information and to volunteer. Night Owl Orientation is held every third Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Office.
- VIII. Liaison Reports: No reports from District 8 or 15.
- IX. Upcoming Intergroup Events:  
Ice Cream Social (Aug. 25). This event, at the Recovery Church, will boast an ice cream bar and longtimers sharing their experience, strength and hope. Don't miss it, between 1 and 3:30!
- X. Old Business:  
The Board invited feedback from the Reps regarding the Intergroup Events Calendar Committee's recommendations to: (1) establish event sub-committees, (2) establish a speaker selection subcommittee, and (3) discontinue Intergroup's hosting of the Fall and Spring Workshops.
- XII. New Business: None.
- XIII. Group Announcements:  
The St. Paul Speaker Meeting is the last Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joe's. New committee members are needed: no sobriety requirement. Contact Berta.  
OMD's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is on August 22 at the Highland Picnic Pavilion. Food starts at 5, meeting at 7.  
NW Alano Squad 1 is hosting an Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. to check out their 12 & 12 meeting. Homemade salsa, chips, premium coffee and fun!  
October 15 Summit Hill group will be having their 30<sup>th</sup> annual fall banquet at 6 p.m. at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church.  
October 26-28 at the Millennium Hotel in Minneapolis is MNYPAA's annual conference.  
Please visit the website for more information on area events.
- XIV: No suggestions for next month's agenda.
- XV: Jason delivered the Grapevine Report. Cedar volunteered for September.
- XVI. Chris presented the Concept Review (Concept VIII). Jason volunteered for September (Concept IX).
- XVII. Roger presented the Mock Rep Report and Lynn volunteered for September.
- XVIII. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jeff M., Treasurer	Jean O., Alt. Chair	Denise A., Chairperson	Chris S., Member at Large	Frank N., Office Manager	Wanda B., Mem- ber at Large
John D., Board Advisor	Cedar H., Secretary	Jim G., Alt. Treasurer	Jonathan L., Web- servant	Eva P., Member at Large	Tim B., Member at Large
Katie t., Back to Basics	Brad R., Basic Text	Mona B., Como Park BB	Paul T., Cottage Grove groups	Lynne S., Happy, Joyous & Free	Julie H., Happy, Joyous & Free
John F., Highland Park Sunday Night BB	Janet T., Look to This Day	Harry T., Main Idea groups	Jenni S., New Brigh- ton Big Book	Christa W., No Time Like The Present	Jason B., OMD
Melissa D., Pock- eting Our Pride	Ryan C., Summit Hill	Mark Z., Third Edi- tion BB	Chris J., West End groups		

**OCTOBER MEETING: Tuesday the 16th, 2012 (7:30 PM)**  
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 436 Roy Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

**7th Tradition  
Suggestions for Groups**

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

The Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” offers the following suggestions for the distribution of group funds after group expenses have been paid:

**50% St. Paul Intergroup**

Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. #214  
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

**AUGUST CONTRIBUTIONS**

Number of Group Contributors: 28  
Total Group Contributions: \$2167  
Number of Faithful Fivers: 9  
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$102

***Thank You!***

**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.)**

Grace Lutheran Church  
1730 Old Hudson Rd, St. Paul  
2nd Sun., 7:00PM  
www.district26-area36.org

**Thanks to all the super  
volunteers who helped in the  
Office during August**

Alex D, Andrew B., Andy B.,  
Angie R., Barb S., Bob P.,  
Courtney I., Doug H., Greg B.,  
Henry O., Jack B., Jack R.,  
Jeff A., Jeff G., Jim C., Mark S.,  
Matt I., Matt K., Mike M., Molly  
H., Paul K., Pauline M., Perry G.,  
Phil B., Rick B., Robin G.,  
Rosey C., Steve M., Suzanne B.,  
Tierney Y., Tom W.

*Thanks to all  
the NightOwl volunteers  
and groups as well!*



**Thanks to the groups that  
contributed in August**

- Amazing Grace Group
- Apple Valley Tues Night Group
- Complete Defeat Group
- Dakota Alano Wed AM Roosters
- Downtown Alano Club
- Eagan Burnsville Savage - Sat  
Speaker
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Forest Lake Alano
- Forest Lake Tuesday Men's
- The Grind
- Hampden Park AA
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Hugo Group
- Joy Of Living AA
- Lakers Saturday Morning AA
- Maplewood Groups
- Midway Club
- Pocketing Our Pride
- St. Croix Alano Thurs. 10am
- St. Joseph - Houlton/Hudson
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- Third Edition Group
- Unity Service Recovery - Tues. Nite
- We Agnostics
- White Bear Lake
- Woodbury Fri I Am Responsible

***The Lifeline: Purpose Statement***

*The Lifeline* is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for groups and 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. We welcome articles on a Step, Tradition or Concept, or descriptions of personal experience. Please email your article to Lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #214, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles mailed to us cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and content that might violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc.

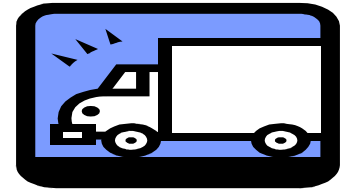


St. Paul Intergroup  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

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Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Twin Cities 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 \$5.00 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 also may contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and a check to:**

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W., Ste. 214, 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) \_\_\_\_\_