

The Lifeline



February 2013

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 49, Issue 2

Step Two: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Having taken the First Step of the A.A. program by admitting that we were powerless over alcohol, we were confronted with Step Two: "We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

This Second Step is often referred to as the first spiritual step; but is it or the subsequent steps any more spiritual than Step One? Is not anything spiritual which tends toward elevating us to the best and highest type of human being we are capable of becoming?

The Second Step contains the crux of the A.A. method of getting well: it shows us how to expel that little streak of insanity which caused so many relapses into debauchery long after the normal drinker would have shrunk from another drink. This twisted kind of thinking is eliminated by faith in a Power greater than ourselves.

The question which naturally arises in the newcomer's mind is: "How can I acquire enough faith to get well?" The road to faith is by taking all Twelve Steps. Faith is acquired by working for it; it is retained by continuous use of the Twelve Steps.

One who has gained faith in this greater Power finds such faith reflected toward himself. To the alcoholic this means faith that he will not take the first, fatal drink. But that is not all, for soon we learn that in some mysterious way our whole lives have been changed, our thinking changed, and our desires as well. Finally the realization comes that we no longer drink--because we just don't want to.

The greater Power now becomes for us the court of final appeal. Those harsh judgments of people, conditions, and so on, which we made in the past are now left to this court. This is the way to tolerance. Our own ideals, aims and ambitions are also submitted. This leads to progress, and it is by progressing that we become--and remain--well.

Horace C.

("On the Second Step," Reprinted from the book *Step By Step - Real AAs, Real Recovery*, with the permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)

Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Every time I think about this Tradition, I am reminded of the occasion when it's wisdom and importance was most fully impressed on me. This was in a monthly business meeting of an AA club where I was attending several meetings.

There was a very contentious issue on the agenda. Several members of the club wanted to have a member banned from the premises of the club! Needless to say, there were some problems raised by this person and they were fairly serious. But, could we bar an alcoholic from our AA meetings?

The majority of those at this business meeting said, "Yes!", and cited problem after problem associated with the person in the club. Heads around the table all nodded as these were recited. The group conscience seemed clear.

The vote was taken, and only one person present voted against banishment. As is the AA practice, the chairperson asked the dissenter if they wished to state their "minority opinion", and they did. The lone no voter explained at some length why they felt the situation did not call for the exclusion of the club member.

It was a good speech and invoked the spiritual principles of our Program. As he spoke, I could see doubt and concern come to the faces of the other members present, all of whom had just voted the other way. When he concluded, there was a pregnant pause and the chair asked whether anyone thought another vote should be taken. Several people immediately said yes.

And this second vote was a complete reversal of the first. The "one ultimate authority" had been re-consulted and the motion to ban the person failed.

Anonymous, St. Paul

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: 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...

As the outgoing Board Chair, one thought that has been on my mind the last couple months is this:

How can we get more groups involved with St. Paul Intergroup and how can we get more representatives at the monthly meetings?

Service is its own reward. Through service I have learned how to be relationship with others, work on a team and to listen and to compromise for the good of others. The rewards are immeasurable.

Being a group representative is one way you, too, can benefit from the rewards of service. If you want to be more involved in St. Paul Intergroup please check the website at www.aastpaul.org or the call the office at 651-227-5502.

The Outreach Committee has worked hard this past year to make contact with new meetings and check in on meetings that we haven't heard from in a while. Events have been very well attended. St. Paul Intergroup is thriving!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your St. Paul Intergroup Advisor.

Denise A.

Notes From your Central Office...

Your Intergroup office finished the year 2013 in fine shape, both financially and in service. And we sent the year off with a great New Year's Eve event, that was very well attended and enjoyed by all. We held a Speaker Meeting, followed by Marathon Step meeting until midnight, while an excellent band kept the dance floor full right into 2013. Our thanks to the many volunteers to assisted us with putting on such a fun and sober party.

In 2012, the office sold over 1980 Big Books, including editions in Greek, Nepali, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Swedish and Urdu. We also sold over 420 12x12's, 820 Newcomer packets and over 2100 St. Paul Area meeting directories (many thousands more accessed our directory on line). And again, to show that it's still working, we sold over 10,150 medallions—recognizing from 24 hours to 67 years!

Thanks to our many, many service volunteers, we are able to help assure that "When anyone, anywhere" needed help, St. Paul Area AA and our member groups have been able to extend their hand.

Thanks, St. Paul Area AA!

2013 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Jean O.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Christa W.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Cedar H.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Jim G.
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	John L.
<u>Members at Large 2013:</u>	Tim B. & Eva P.
<u>Members at Large 2014:</u>	Micky M. & Jan T.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Denise A.

Office Calls in December 2012

Meeting information	133
Inventory/hours	31
12th Step calls	6
Temporary sponsor	18
Speaker request	16
Special events	7
Outside issues	14
Info for professionals	4
Administrative	60
Other	63
Total Calls	352
Daily average	17.6
Visitors	256

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

Area 36

Southern MN Area Committee Meetings

Best Western Hotel - 1111 Range Street

North Mankato, MN

Saturday, 2 February 2013, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

www.area36.org

Area 36

Trusted Servant Leadership Training

Friendship Church

12800 Marystown Rd, Shakopee, MN 55379

Saturday, February 9th - 9AM - 4PM

Spaghetti & Salad lunch provided

2013 West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference

"The General Service Conference

Takes its Inventory

-----Our Solution in Action"

Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 2111 N. LaCrosse St.,
Rapid City, SD 57701

Friday, March 1st - Sunday, March 3rd

5th Annual

Embers in the Fire

Women's Retreat

"Connection:

Caging the Squirrel"

Northern Pines United Methodist

20033 County Rd #1

Park Rapids, MN 56470

Friday, March 8th - Sunday, March 10th

For More Info Contact: Pam D. 763-443-5287

Aim for Ames

Roundup

"Following the Path"

Quality Inn & Suites—East 13 St. & I-35

Ames, IA

Friday March 22 - Sunday March 24th

Preregistrations must be received by March 13th

Website: www.aimforames.org

HOSPITALITY SUITE RESERVATIONS

Gopher State Roundup XL

DoubleTree in Bloomington, MN- May 24, 25 and 26, 2013

Hospitality suites are available by reservation only.

If your group is interested in hospitality suite and the association rates, please contact:

Candace S. Hospitality Suites Committee Chair: 763-639-7495 or
James L., Hospitality Suites Committee Co-Chair: 612-226-4711

If you had a room last year, you will be receiving this year's application form by February 18, 2013.

We hope to see you there!

Group and Area News

Moved: St. Paul Park AA—Beginning on Jan. 22, this group will be meeting at the at the Community United Church of Christ, 1145 Summit Ave., St. Paul Park, MN 55071, on the corner of Summit and Pullman Ave.

Your News?

We invite you to share your AA news here! Please send your items to lifeline@aastpaul.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops

By The Book 4th Step Workshop

Wednesdays,

~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~

2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Check Website for other locations

For more info:

www.aabythebook.org



Looking for a Service Opportunity - Become a Night Owl!

Interested in becoming a Night Owl? Wondering what a Night Owl is? We need Night Owl volunteers. If you have a year of sobriety and stay home once a month, this service opportunity is perfect for you! It's a great Home Group commitment too - host a Night Owl party for your group and share the service!!

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations: Saturday, Feb 16th & Mar. 16th 2013 -10AM to 11AM

St. Paul Intergroup Office 1600 University Ave. W.—Ste. #214 (free parking and coffee, too)

To RSVP please call: 651-227-5502

Please call by 4PM the Friday before to RSVP



St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, December 18th, 2012

I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, Introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.

II. Last month's Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report – Jeff M. reports above-budget contributions for the month of November resulted in a strong month. Founders' Day sales helped the overall monthly sales figure, which was still below budget. Intergroup has a net profit of \$7,000 year to date. The balance sheet remains strong with lots of assets and practically no debt. The 2013 Proposed Budget passed by an unanimous vote of the Representatives. Questions/concerns can be sent to Jeff M. at 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*. Everett E., who had maintained 67 years of consecutive sobriety, passed away this week. Also, the Oasis Club has been closed down due to a fire. Finally, Tom S. passed last week. Founder's Day Weekend was a great success, with strong literature sales. Office sales are robust for the holidays, and volunteerism has really picked up. Four open recurring Night Owl shifts are available. Office staff is available to help you create a flyer for your AA-related event, just call!

V. The Website Report – Jonathan reports that traffic was slightly down but meeting searches were up. The full usage report is available on the website. Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan (webservant@aastpaul.org) or the Office for AA-related events which may 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 the Office if you can help with this important service opportunity.

VII. Night Owl Report – There are several 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:

New Year's Eve, December 31: The speaker is Paula H. from Highland Park AA. Denise needs additional volunteers for individual service opportunities during the night. (chair@aastpaul.org).

X. Old Business: None.

XII. New Business:

Denise is moving to the Advisory role following tonight's meeting, and she wanted to also recognize other Board members who are rotating off the Board. Many thanks for your service!

XIII. Group Announcements:

Main Idea groups on Christmas Eve from 3-8 will have meetings and a potluck. Downtown Alano on Christmas Day will serve dinner at 2. Regular meeting schedule.

Hole in the Doughnut will no have a speaker on Christmas but it will be a call up meeting.

The Farmington and Rosemont groups are coordinating a NYE party from 8-1 a.m. with a potluck, dj, dancing, and karaoke.

Christmas Eve will have its usual Third Edition meeting.

Defogged is meeting at 6 on Christmas Day. The speaker meeting will be held on Jan 8, not Jan 1.

XIV: No suggestions for next month's agenda.

XV: Mike C. volunteered to do the Grapevine Report for January.

XVI. Eva delivered the Concept Review for Concepts XI and XII. Mickey volunteered for January.

XVII. Cedar delivered the Mock Rep Report. Brad volunteered for January.

XVIII. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

ATTENDANCE:

Jeff M., Treasurer	Jonathan, Webservant	John D., Advisor to the Board	Chris S., Member @ Large	Frank N., Office Manager	Denise A., Chair
Cedar, Secretary	Tim B., Member @ Large	Wanda, Member @ Large	Eva P., Member @ Large	Katie T., Back to Basics, Burnsville	Brad R., Basic Text
Paul T., Cottage Grove Groups	Mike C., Defogged Men's Group	Craig O., Happy Hour 12x12	Michelle H., Look To This Day	Harry T., Main Idea	Adrienne B., Maplewood Alano
Jenni S., New Brighton BB	Bryant R., OMD	Richard H., Problem & Solution	Eric J, Rosemount AA	Guthrie K., Students of Life	Roger M., Summit Hill
Mark Z., Third Edition	Mary K., Uptown Groups				

FEBRUARY MEETING: Tuesday the 19th, 2013 (7:30 PM)

**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

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 35
Total Group Contributions: \$3972
Number of Faithful Fivers: 16
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$568

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 December**

Andy B., Allison D., Annie,
Bill A., Bob P., C.J. M., Chris C.,
Chris S., Desiree H., Devin.,
Dylan G., France L., Foress M.,
Greg K., Henry O., Jack R.,
Jason P., Jennifer A., Jim C.,
Jimmy P., Kat G., Kristin H.,
Kristen Y., Matt I., Mark S.,
Rick B., Rondy, Suzanne B.,
Tucker P., Ty K.,

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



**Thanks to the groups that
contributed in December
2012**

- 11 W. Bernard Group
- Book Club- 'The book club'
- Como Park BB
- Cottage Grove
- CRC Alumni Group
- Dakota Alano Wed AM Roosters
- Eagan Burnsville Savage - Sat Speaker
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fresh Air Group
- Friday 12x12 By the Book
- Hampden Park AA
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- January 6th Group- Roseville
- Jumpstart 12 & 12
- Lakers Saturday Morning AA
- Lakeville BYOBB
- Light Rail to Serenity
- Lit Up Group
- Maplewood Groups
- Midway Club
- North Dale Group
- Rosemount AA
- Sisters of Serenity
- South Suburban
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- The Twelve Steppers
- Tuesday Night Friends - Vadnais Heights
- Turning Point in Wayzata
- Uptown Club
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Lake Redeemer
- Woodbury Primary Purpose

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.

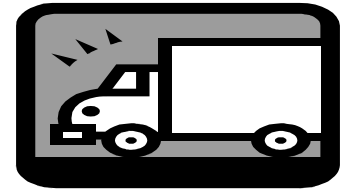


St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214
St. Paul, MN 55104

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) _____