

The Lifeline



May 2014

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 50, Issue 5

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

“All of A.A.’s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires...they deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.”

-TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS. P. 55

“After writing down my character defects, I was unwilling to talk about them, and decided it was time to stop carrying this burden alone. I needed to confess those defects to someone. O had read—and been told—I could not stay sober unless I did. Step Five provided me with a feeling of belonging, with humility and serenity when I practiced it in my daily living. It was important to admit my defects of character in the order presented in Step Five: “to God, to ourselves and to another human being.” Admitting to God first paved the way for admission to myself and to another person. As the taking of the Step is described, a feeling of being at one with God and my fellow man brought me to a resting place where I could prepare myself for the remaining Steps toward a full and meaningful recovery.”

Reprinted from *Daily Reflections*, p. 137, reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I used to think, a few years ago, that I would like to be a member of a minority group. It seemed that, though they suffered discrimination and prejudice, they had purpose, and each member always had something on his side—his fellows.

Then I did become a member of a minority group: I became a practicing alcoholic. As a member of this group, I knew discrimination and prejudice; I was socially unacceptable; my physical presence caused discomfort in those around me.

There is no single cataclysmic event that drove me to seek help—just a soul-sickness so desperate there was no longer any living with it. A few attempts to end it all resulted in humiliating frustration and hospital stays. I’d exhausted the patience of family and friends. I’d consulted with doctors and lied about my condition and habits. I’d slammed every door that was open to me. Except one.

So I became a member of another minority group. I joined the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, where members have a purpose, where they are united to conquer a common foe and make a better world.

- E.,G., October 1971

Reprinted from *Thank Your For Sharing—Sixty Years of Letters To The A.A. Grapevine*, p. 144, reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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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

Notes From your Central Office...

As I write this in April, our Fellowship is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the publication of our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in 1939. “The first hundred” A.A members took an enormous risk in this. They formed a corporation, spent \$25 for shares in it, collaborated in writing the book, and had 4750 copies printed to sell to the public. That was all they could then afford to have printed.

And then the whole endeavor looked like a failure when the hoped-for sales did not occur. The small A.A. office in New York was closed for lack of funds, and the books and all went into storage.

As we know, things got better. Magazine articles in *Liberty* and *The Saturday Evening Post*, and newspaper coverage of the Rockefeller dinner generated interest and inquiries, the first printing sold out, the shareholders were paid, and in March, 1941, a second printing of the first edition went on sale. The “mushrooming” period came to pass, and a dozen more printings of the First Edition occurred before the Revised Second Edition of the Big Book was published in 1955.

Since 1939 millions of Big Books have been sold and we are in our Fourth Edition. During 2012 alone, AA World Services sold 950,000 copies—just shy of a million—of the Big Book in the English language. There are also Big Books in Spanish, French and 47 other languages from Arabic to Zulu. In 2013, the Smithsonian named *Alcoholics Anonymous* one of the 88 most important books in American history.

On April 7, our office received its first shipment of the commemorative 75th anniversary edition of the Big Book, a reproduction of the first printing of the book as it was in 1939. In the first week we had them, the office sold over 100 copies, a far cry from the experience of 1939!

It’s pretty easy to see why, as AA World Services has done a tremendous job with this edition. It is a big book—over a half inch taller, wider and thicker than our Fourth Edition, and weighing more than half a pound more. As in 1939, it is bound in red cloth, and has a pretty garish red, yellow and black dust cover. The Doctor’s Opinion starts on page one, so Chapter Five has been pushed back to page 70. There is even a personal story, *Lone Endeavor*, included which was only in the 4750 copies of the 1939 printing, and has never been in the book since.

AA World Services will only be offering this anniversary edition until the 2015 International Conference takes place next July in Atlanta. We’ll try to keep these in stock for you in our store until then.

- Thanks, St. Paul Area A.A.!

<u>2014 Steering Board</u>		<u>Office Calls in March 2014</u>	
<u>Chair:</u>	Christa W.	Meeting information	127
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Tim B.	Inventory/hours	26
<u>Secretary:</u>	Michelle M.	12th Step calls	11
<u>Treasurer:</u>	CJ M.	Temporary sponsor	30
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	Kelly B.	Speaker request	19
<u>Members at Large 2014:</u>	Tiffany B. & Steve N.	Special events	4
<u>Members at Large 2015:</u>	Hillary B. & Paul T.	Outside issues	17
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Jean O.	Info for professionals	2
		Administrative	99
		Other	80
		Total Calls	415
		Daily average	19.8
		Visitors	235

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

St. Cloud Spring Roundup "Celebration of Recovery"

Moose Lodge
1300 3rd Street N, Waite Park, MN
Friday, May 2nd
6:00PM Dinner, 7:00PM Speaker Meeting

75th Anniversary Big Book Anniversary Celebration

New Ulm Events Center
301 20th St. S, New Ulm, MN 56073
Friday, May 2nd - Saturday, May 3rd
www.Dist23.net

44th Annual Iron Range Get-Together "Rocketed into a Fourth Dimension"

Sawmill Inn
2301 S. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Friday, May 2nd - Sunday, May 4th
Call Jack at 218-492-4287 or Jake at 218-263-1510

Gopher State Roundup XLI "When Anyone, Anywhere..."

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Highway 100 & 494, Bloomington, MN
Friday, May 23rd - Sunday, May 25th
www.gopherstatroundup.org

14th Annual Midwest Motorcycle A.A. Convention "Sobriety is a Journey, Not a Destination"

Emerald Acres Campground
Pearl City, IL 61062
Friday, June 20th - Sunday, June 22nd
www.MMAAC.org

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Area Assembly

Maplewood Community Center
Maplewood, MN
Saturday, June 28th 9:00AM - 5:00PM
www.area36.org

Group and Area News

New Meeting: The MN Vets Home in Hastings is hosting an AA meeting in Room 134, Fridays at 7:00PM. The Home is located at 1200 East 18th Street, Hastings 55033. The meeting format is Open, Speaker, Mixed/All-ages.

New Group: *Elements* group began meeting on Tuesdays, 7:00PM at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 South Robert St., West St. Paul, 55118. The meeting format is Open, Step & Mixed/All-ages.

New Group: *Up in Smoke* is hosting two new meetings - a weekly Thursday 8:00PM Speaker/Discussion meeting for Young People (Smoking permitted), and on the 3rd Saturday each month a 10AM Topic for Young People (Smoking permitted) at the Golden Leaf, 277 West 7th, St. Paul 55102.

Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops

By The Book 4th Step Workshop
Wednesdays,
~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~
2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404
For more info: www.aabythebook.org

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.



Come visit St. Paul Intergroup
at Gopher State Round-Up
Friday May 23rd - Sunday, May 25th

~Please stop into our Hospitality Suite~

We'll have Coffee, Pop, Water, Treats
& lots of Good Fellowship too!!



St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes March 18th, 2014

- I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, Introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
- II. Minutes from February were reviewed and approved.
- III. Treasurer's Report – CJ reported on the checking account and payroll report. Both have healthy balances. She also reported that funds have been dedicated to the computer upgrades being done in office. Contributions and book sales are doing well. The **Faithful Fiver** automatic and electronic payment program has taken hold, and you are invited to participate in this convenience! Forms are available in the *Lifeline* or on the website. Other questions/concerns can be sent to CJ M. at treasurer@aastpaul.org.
- IV. The Office Report – Frank N. reports that changing to the new computer system is going quite smoothly. The office is looking forward to the arrival of the 75th Anniversary First Edition of the Big Book, and is making plans for a nice display in the office. The editions should be in by next meeting. The office has an original printing of 2nd edition of the big book from a departed member including dust cover – currently displayed in shadow box. The Office continues to seek submissions of writing, cartoons, and/or jokes from individuals for inclusion in the *Lifeline*. Office staff is available to help you create a flyer for your AA-related event, just call or email at manager@aastpaul.org.
- V. The Website Report – Jonathan reports there is one new meeting and one new group this month. He reports that we have 689 regular meetings (these are meetings that meet every week), and 286 groups. Many service opportunities are available on the website. The full usage report and server statistics are 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 – Tiffany B reports that the program is looking for people to go out to any meeting serviced by the St. Paul Intergroup and bring information about what Intergroup has to offer. Contact Tiffany B at outreach@aastpaul.org for more information on assisting Intergroup with this valuable service opportunity!
- VII. Update from the Board – Tim B. reports that the opening for a Board Member at Large has been filled. The board voted in Steve N.
- VIII. Night Owl Report – Frank N. reports there are **THREE** recurring shifts available. Please visit the website or call the Office for more information on open shifts and to volunteer. Night Owl Orientation is held every third Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Office.
- IX. Liaison Reports: Scott (District 8) reports that the district pays \$130/week for the ASL interpreters at OMD. The green can committee requests that groups report and send in funds each month. Questions or concerns about the green can, please email Chris S at: csnowden1964@yahoo.com. Scott also explained how the district public information is working on placing big books in libraries. Nancy (District 15) reports that there now is 2 meetings/week at Oak Park Heights correctional facility, 7 men attending, modified big book/12x12 format. The district is working on getting AA approved books and literature for the library at Oak Park Heights.
- X. Upcoming Intergroup Events:
 - Spring Fling – Saturday April 26 at Recovery Church. Spaghetti dinner at 5:30. \$7 for dinner. AA and Alanon speakers start at 7pm. No charge for speakers. DJ dance follows speakers. \$5 for dance. \$10 for whole event, but no one turned away for lack of funds. Interested in helping, please get in touch with Kelly B. via email at manager@aastpaul.org
 - Gopher State – Intergroup will be hosting a hospitality suite, so prepare to sign up or have your group sign up to take a shift hosting at the suite. We will provide coffee. Please get in touch with Hillary B. via email at manager@aastpaul.org for preferred time slots (2–3 hour shifts.)
 - Ice Cream Social not until August so no updates
- XI. Old Business: none
- XII. New Business: none
- XIII. Group AA Announcements:
 - MNYPAA has a round-up in Duluth April 11–14.
 - Intergroup is making a list of those interested in being the facilitator for group inventories. Please email Frank N. manager@aastpaul.org
- XIV. Suggestions for next month's agenda: none
- XV. Mike C. delivered the Grapevine Report. Becca volunteered to do the Grapevine Report for April.
- XVI. Paul T. delivered the Concept Review for Concept III. Drew L. volunteered for April.
- XVII. Drew L. delivered the Mock Rep Report. Terry volunteered for April.
- XVIII. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

ATTENDANCE:

Christa W., Board Chair	Tim B., Alternate Chair	CJ M., Treasurer	Tiffany B., Member at Large	Hillary B., Member at Large	Paul T., Member at Large
Jonathan L., Webservant	Frank N., Office Manager	Karen B., Back to Basics	Sandy K., Como Park BB	Paul T., Dakota Alano	Mike C., De-fogged Men
Scott L., District 8	Nancy T., District 15	Jestine M., Fire-side Women	Terry H., The Firing Line	David P., Happy, Joyous & Free	Muggsy A., Hole in the Donut
Katy L., Look to this Day	Ken D., Maplewood Alano	Luke F., OMD	Mark G., OMD	Sonya J., Pocketing Our Pride	Steve N., St. Paul Speaker Mtg.
Shannon W., Students of Life	Kat M., Summit Hill	Becca N., Summit Women's	Don D., Third Edition BB	Michael C., Uptown	Drew L., West End

May MEETING: Tuesday the 20th, 2014 (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 131523
St. Paul, MN 55113

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

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 31
Total Group Contributions: \$2294
Number of Faithful Fivers: 25
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$326

Thank You!

District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)
Fairview Community Center
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 108, 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 March**

Adam E., Ben B., Blake H.,
Brittany L., Bob P., Brian H.,
Burt K., Carol R., Clayton B.,
Dave B., Emily R., Frank D.,
Heather S., Henry O.,
Jake K., Jake R., Jeff K., Jesse S.,
Jim C., John S., Judd B.,
Kevin C., Megan R., Mike B.,
Mike O., Mike S., Mike Y.,
Molly K., Shawn S., Steve W.,
Suzanne B., Ty K., Vicky V.

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



**Thanks to the groups
that contributed in
March 2014**

- Anoka Day By Day
- Back to Basics - Savage
- Broad Highway Group
- Burnsville - Primary Purpose
- Dakota AA Sat. AM
- Day by Day Women's Group
- Eagan Burnsville Savage - Sat Speaker
- Fairview Riverside AA
- Farmington Monday Night
- Grovers Thursday Night
- Hampden Park AA
- Happy Hour 12 & 12
- Happy Joyous and Free II
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Hope In The Wilderness group
- Island Lake Group
- Lakers Saturday Morning AA
- Midway Club
- New Brighton Alano
- Serious Sober People
- St. Croix Alano
- St. Croix Alano Tues AM
- St. Stephen's Tuesday Group
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Third Edition Group
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Three R's group
- Una Luz en el Camino
- Uptown Club
- 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.

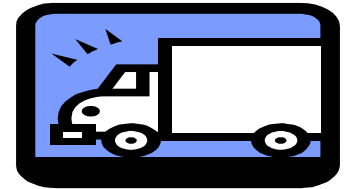


St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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* - Enrollment Form

Faithful Fivers graciously contribute \$5.00 or more to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry A.A.'s vital message of Hope and Recovery to all who need and want it. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to *The Lifeline*. Contributions may be made annually, bi-annually, quarterly or monthly.

~Yes! Please enroll me as a *Faithful Fiver* !

1. Contact information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

2. Amount & Frequency:

Amount: \$ _____
Frequency: (check only one)
 Monthly Quarterly Bi-Annually Annually
Start on ____/____/____
 Please send my receipt to my email address
 Please send my receipt to my home/postal address
 Please send my **Lifeline** to my **email** address instead

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard
Card # _____/_____/_____/_____
Expiration Date: ____/____
Name on Card _____

Signature _____

*I authorize St. Paul Intergroup to automatically bill my account as specified (monthly, quarterly, etc.). I understand that I am free to cancel this authorization at any time by contacting Intergroup.

Check - Please make payable to:

Saint Paul Intergroup
1600 University Ave W. - Suite 214
Saint Paul, MN 55104