



Concept One: 1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

The short history of this Concept is; our co-founders came to realize that after years of providing the direction for the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous, they won't be around forever. Who will the Trustees of our General Service Board take their direction from? On July 3rd, 1955 that responsibility and authority was turned over to us, the groups. Alcoholics Anonymous came of age.

In my work life I have projects and events scattered over four states. I've built committees of volunteers in these various locations that help me with my work and I rely on their input and direction to carry out our mission and to make it work in their communities. I give everyone involved a voice in the decision making process. They actually look forward to our monthly meetings.

At home my wife and I are the "Group Conscience" but we often bring in others involved in our lives as we make decisions affecting our extended family or activities with friends. We try and include all affected by the changes and plans we make as a family. Even the four legged furry ones like to express their opinions.

Bill W. wrote in Concept One: "Therefore we believe that we see in our fellowship a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and God to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions."

- Scott A., Past Area 36 Delegate, Panel 57-59/2007- 2010

Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.

It has been my contention for some time that AA is not merely a fellowship of ex-drunks gathered together for the purpose of staying sober. It is a program for better living, in which the gaining and maintaining of sobriety is merely the first step--to alcoholics a "must" and all-important one.

The AA program centers on better living rather than sobriety. In the Twelve Steps the words alcohol and alcoholics are each mentioned only once. I think it is logical to assume that they are used in Steps One and Twelve simply because we are a Fellowship of alcoholics and sobriety is our first problem, not our last; nor can they all be solved by sobriety alone.

The other ten Steps do not refer to drinking but dwell on improving our way of living. I will concede that these other ten Steps would help a person stay sober if he saw fit to use them for that purpose and they are no doubt an indirect asset to sobriety; but they are a direct benefit to a better way of life.

The "Definition of AA," as many have seen fit to call it, is for me a complete explanation of AA.

The last sentence in the so-called "Definition" says: "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." It does not say "Our purpose"--it says "Our primary purpose." In other words, not the whole purpose but the first.

First of what? My answer is--the first of a series of things we must do if we want a better way of life.

R. B. (Addison, New York)

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**St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup, Inc.
608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102**

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

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

*The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has ...
We stay whole, or A.A. dies.*

TWELVES STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P. 129

Our Traditions are key elements in the ego deflation process necessary to achieve and maintain sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. The First Tradition remind me not to take credit, or authority, for my recovery. Placing our common welfare first reminds me not to become a healer in this program; I am still one of the patients. Self-effacing elders built the ward. Without it, I doubt I would be alive. Without the group, few alcoholics would recover.

The active role in renewed surrender of will enables me to step aside from the need to dominate, the desire for recognition, both of which played so great a part in my alcoholism. Deferring my personal desires for the greater good of group growth contributes towards A.A. unity that is central to all recovery. It helps me to remember that the whole is greater than the sum of all its' parts.

(Reprinted from *Daily Reflections*, pg. 39, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Thoughts From the Board

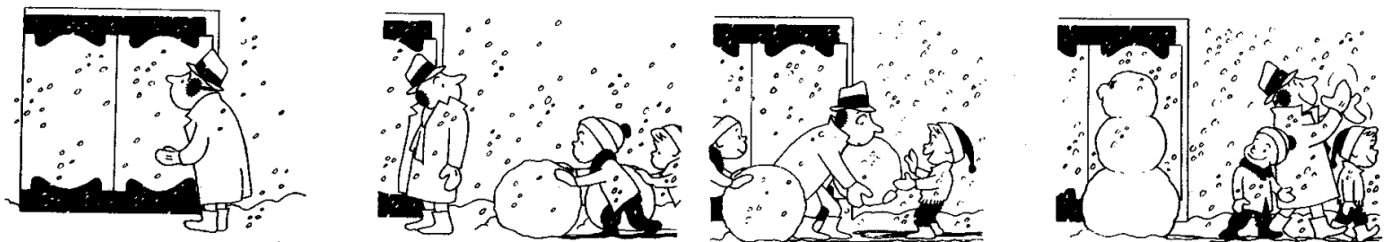
Hello I am one of your At-Large Board Members finishing up my second year at serving on the Intergroup Board of Representatives. It has been a wonderful experience and I'm sad to be done and thankful at the same time. I've learned so many things and met so many great people while serving. It has also helped me grow tremendously in my recovery.

I was reminded, ironically enough at Gratitude Night, how incredibly important Service Work is to my A.A experience. When life happens and things get hectic it's easy to forget that the best way to get some relief is to continue helping others. Intergroup puts on so many great events - just being at one of those and hearing one thing I need to hear that day can turn things around for me. There's days where I don't want to do stuff and those are the days that I especially need to be there. Either way, when I'm done, I always feel a great deal of relief and accomplishment.

My understanding of Intergroup has grown so much over the past two years, and I am so grateful to have been a part of a Central Office that helps so many. Service Work has truly been the backbone of my recovery since I was 4 months sober. It's the one thing that I can do to be comfortable and also help the New-comer. It was also wonderful to see the elections, and I'm so excited for the new Board Members and all that they're going to get to experience.

Thank you all for letting me be of service, and I hope everyone has a wonderful next year! Bye, bye 2016!

- Jestine M. - Board Member at Large



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The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup, Incorporated. 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, in addition to descriptions of personal experience. We also welcome cartoons and drawings expressing the wry side of our A.A. experience.

Please email your article to lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 608 Seventh Street West, St. Paul MN 55102. 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.

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Area Committee Meetings

Best Western
North Mankato, MN
Saturday, December 5th - 9:30 AM—5:30PM
For More Info: www.area36.org

14th Annual

Wild Rice Roundup "Lose Your Winter Blues"

Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center
Mahnomon, MN
Friday, January 13th - Sunday, January 15th, 2017
For More Info: www.wildriceroundup.com

Group and Area News

Downtown Alano Reopens - Current Schedule

Sun.	11:00AM	Closed, Mixed, Step Meeting	Room 5
Sun.	11:00AM	"Grupo Latino," En Española	Room 7
Sun.	6:00PM	"Cover To Cover" Group	
		Women's Open, Big Book	Room 3
Sun.	6:30PM	Closed, Mixed, Step Study	Room 4
Mon.	11:00AM	Closed, Mixed, Step Study	Room 5
Mon.	3:00PM	"We Don't Know" Group	
		Open, Big Book, Topic/Discussion	Room 4
Mon.	8:00PM	Closed, Mixed, Step, Topic	Room 2
Tues.	3:00PM	"We Don't Know" Group	
		Open, Big Book, Topic/Discussion	Room 4
Tues.	8:00PM	Open, Beginners/Orientation	Room 4
Wed.	3:00PM	"We Don't Know" Group	
		Open, Big Book, Topic/Discussion	Room 4
Wed.	7:00PM	"Grupo Latino," En Española	Room 7
Wed.	8:00PM	Closed, Men's, Step Study	Room 2
Thur.	3:00PM	"We Don't Know" Group	
		Open, Big Book, Topic/Discussion	Room 4
Thur.	8:00PM	Closed, Mixed, Big Book	Room 5
Fri.	3:00PM	"We Don't Know" Group	
		Open, Big Book, Topic/Discussion	Room 4
Fri.	5:15PM	Closed, Mixed, As Bill See's It	Room 4
Fri.	6:30PM	"Simple Solution" Group	
		Open, Women's, 12&12	Room 3
Fri.	7:00PM	"Grupo Latino," En Española	Room 7
Fr.	7:30PM	"Wing & Prayer Group"	
		Open, Mixed, Step, Tradition	Room 2
Fri.	8:00PM	Closed, Mixed, Step Study	Room 5
Sat.	11:00AM	"Grupo Latino," En Española	Room 7
Sat.	8:00PM	Open, Mixed, Speaker Meeting	

~Please let the Intergroup office staff know about any changes to your meeting~
Email: lifeline@aastpaul.org or call 651-227-5503

WICYPAA XXIV

Wisconsin Conference of Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous

"Sunlight of the Spirit" pg. 66
Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport
6401 South I3th Street, Milwaukee, WI
Friday, January 13th - Sunday, January 15th 2017
For More Information: www.wicypaa.org/

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Recovery, Unity & Service Conference

Best Western
North Mankato, MN
Friday, January 20th - Sunday 22nd, 2017
For More Info: www.area36.org

Itching To Share Your A.A. Story?

Your Intergroup currently serves over 60 speaking commitments each month - more than 720 different opportunities each year to share your experience, strength, & hope!

Most of our speaking commitment are weekly opportunities - many are A.A. groups and some are treatment facilities. Most are evening and weeks, but some are daytime—so lots of choices!

If you are available during the daytime or at short-notice, we would especially like to hear from you!

To sign-up, please call 651-227-5502 Mon - Fri, 9 - 5:30, or complete our volunteer sign-up sheet on our website: <http://www.aastpaul.org/?topic=18>

A minimum of two years sober is requested.



Looking for a Service Opportunity? Become a St. Paul Intergroup Night Owl!



Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, January 21st, February 18th, March 18th

Every Third Saturday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM

St. Paul Intergroup Office

608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102

To RSVP please call: 651-227-5502

St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes November 15th, 2016

Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and Mark read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.

Minutes from last month were reviewed, John motioned and Chris seconded, and were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Joe W gave the report. Bank account is \$15,674. Contact Joe W at treasurer@aastpaul.org

Office Report/Night Owl Report, Dennis B gave the report. Gratitude Night went well. New office signs are up. Office goals are to improve displays that are educational including a rotating Area 36 Archives display. Also, will be adding Concepts into The Lifeline as applied to people's personal lives. Intergroup Directory will be expanded with sections for ASL signed meetings and Spanish-speaking meetings, New Grapevine book Our 12 Traditions. Statistics: 289 visitors, 273 calls to assist in finding meetings, finding temp sponsors and 12th Step calls, 1900+ items sold. Night Owl Orientation is every 3rd Sat. 10am at the Office. Contact Office at manager@aastpaul.org; Night Owl at nightowl@aastpaul.org

Website Report, none due to Board elections. Contact Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org

Outreach Program, none due to Board elections. Contact Jistine M at outreach@aastpaul.org

Update from the Board, none due to Board elections, Jenni S

Announcement: Mary M, Alt Chair presented on the Area 36 AA Recovery, Unity and Service Conference "Ensuring Our Future" to be held January 20-22, 2017 noting the title reflects the upcoming General Service Conference and topics include the Steps, Traditions and Concepts

Liaison Reports: none due to Board elections

Upcoming Intergroup Events, none due to Board elections

Old Business, Joe W, will vote on approval of Proposed 2017 Budget in December

New Business, Board Elections, Bruce and Keith officiated, the following people were elected: Alt. Chair, Leslie D; Alt. Treasurer, Karen C; Secretary, Rob C; 2 year Members at Large (through 2018), Tom S and Eric M; 1 year Member at Large (through 2017), Carolyn M. Welcome new members and thank you to all the outgoing members for your dedication and service.

Group AA Announcements:, none due to Board elections

Suggestions for next month's agenda: None

Grapevine Report, none due to Board elections; volunteer for December, Carolyn

Concept XI, none due to Board elections; volunteer for Concept XI for December, Erica

Mock Rep Report, none due to Board elections; volunteer for December, Open

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 15; The Firing Line, Roseville; Gratitude in Acton, Mahtomedi; Happy, Joyous & Free, Mahtomedi; Highland BB Sunday Night, St. Paul; Hole in the Doughnut, Roseville; Hour of Power, St. Paul; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano Groups, Maplewood; Outright Mental Defectives, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Problem & Solution, St. Paul; Rule 62 Step & Tradition, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

2017 Steering Board:

Chair:	Jenni S.
Alternate Chair:	Lesli D.
Secretary:	Rob C.
Treasurer:	Matt R.
Alternate Treasurer:	Karen C.
Members-at- Large 2017:	J.D. & Carolyn M.
Members-at- Large 2018	Tom S. & Eric M.
Advisor to the Board:	Sandy K.
Manager	Dennis B.

Office Calls/Visitors—November 2016

Meeting information	82
Inventory/hours	35
12th Step calls	12
Temporary sponsor	16
Speaker request	18
Special events	4
Outside issues	17
Info for professionals	1
Administrative	55
Other	50
Total Calls	290
Average Calls/Day	13.2
Total Visitors	221
Average Visitors/Day	9.2

January 2017 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, January 17th @ 7:30 PM

SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH

398 West Superior Street; St. Paul, MN 55102

**7th Tradition
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every A.A. 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**
608 Seventh Street West
St. Paul, MN 55102
- 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

NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors:	34
Total Group Contributions:	\$4567
Number of Faithful Fivers:	17
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$445



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
Rosemount
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 Groups
that contributed
in November 2016**

- 11 W. Bernard Group
- 11th Step FINE Group
- Apple Valley Keep It Simple Sun PM
Basic Text
Billigmeier, Jim
Como Ave Step & Topic
Dakota Alano
Dakota Alano SAT 6PM There is a Solution
Dakota Alano WED 8PM
Eagan Burnsville Savage Groups
Fellowship Club AA
Forest Lake Alano
Fourth Dimension
Happy, Joyous and Free II
Highland Park Groups
Hole in the Doughnut Group
Joy of Living Group
Maplewood Groups
Rosemount Groups
Safe Haven for Women Group
Saturday Morning PS Meeting
St. Croix Alano Mon. 930am
Stillwater Rivertown Group Sun PM
Summit Hill
Third Tradition Northfield
Una Luz en el Camino
Unity, Service & Recovery
Uptown Club
We Care Groups
White Bear Lake - Thursday Night Group
White Bear Lake Redeemer
White Bear SAT AM Women's Group
White Bear Wed AM Women's
Women's 12 & 12 Monday



Thanks to all of the FANTASTIC Office Volunteers who helped in November:

- Angie R., Bob P., Cathy S., Chad C., Chad R.,
Chuck L., Cindy D., Colin M., Frank D., Henry O.,
Ian H., Jeff K., Kathleen S., Kelli C.,
Luis V., Mark D., Pat W., Sean P.,
Suzanne B., Ty K., Woody W.

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!

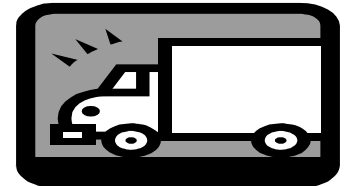


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608 Seventh Street West
St. Paul, MN 55102

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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 our 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
608 Seventh Street West
Saint Paul, MN 55102