



Step Seven: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Freedom from Fear

The second-to-last paragraph of Step Seven in the "Twelve and Twelve" was the wake-up call I needed as I reluctantly began my first journey through the Steps. Finally I had found, in one sentence, the sum total of my active alcoholic life: "The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear--primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or would fail to get something we demanded."

From the day I picked up my first drink, continuing through early sobriety, fear ruled my life twenty-four hours a day. To discover that my fears were based on the selfish notion that I deserved the best that life could give me--all the while trampling on other peoples' rights and feelings--saved my sanity and life. I realized that the fear of losing people, places, or things was not only a waste of time; it caused a multitude of resentments.

My life is far from perfect, of course, but after a few twenty-four hours of sobriety and freedom from fear, I have hope and gratitude. When I remember to work the program daily, I am able to replace fear with hope.

-- James G., Warwick, Rhode Island

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Family Circle

How One AA Wife Lives the 12 Steps - As non-alcoholic mates and families see the AA program. . .

Lois W., AA's "first lady" as the non-alcoholic wife of Bill, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, tells the story of her own adventure in growth applying AA principles to her own life.

"Humbly" was a word I never fully understood. Today it means "in proportion," an honest relationship between myself and my fellow man, and myself and God. While striving for humility myself, it was encouraging to see my husband's growth in humility. While he was drinking he was the most inferiority-ridden person in the world. After AA, from a doormat he bounced way up to superiority over everyone else, including me. This was pretty hard to take "after all the good I'd done him." Of course few wives at first can see how natural it is for the alcoholic to feel that the most wonderful people in the world are AAs living the only true principles. Since I, too, was trying to live the AA program, this was the very point where I had to look to my own humility, regardless of my husband's progress or lack of it.

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Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Just the other night I was listening to the fellow who sponsors my sponsor (my grand sponsor I guess you could say) tell his story. He commented that he had once heard an old-timer make the comment, "*The only thing we alcoholics tend to do in moderation is work the Steps.*" Well, when it comes to the seventh Tradition that is a gross understatement. Ever wonder why that is?

It seems the truth of the matter, at least in most cases, is that we were almost as attached to money as we were to booze. Of course, we needed the money to finance our drinking—so it was every bit as important to us as the booze was. We had to keep some in reserve to make sure our drinking wasn't interrupted! You could make a pretty good case that tightly hanging onto money was what could be called a "survival skill."

Some things die very slowly in our sobriety. Since money was tied to our survival in our minds before AA—it tends to retain that very special place for many of us in sobriety. We subtly suffer from the idea that it will provide our security—just like we suffered from the same idea regarding our booze.

Tradition Seven gives us a very interesting opportunity to do some truly spiritual work. First, it offers us the challenge to let our Higher Power guide us in how we utilize our money—a gift from that Higher Power. Obviously, we want to find that middle ground between spendthrift and miser. Each of us is given an opportunity to make that decision each time the basket is passed in our home group. The question we must answer for ourselves is, "Is money my Master or is it my tool?" If it is a 'tool' we can contribute generously because we know the money will do good work and our Higher Power will replenish it. If it is our Master, we must hold unto it as tightly as we can for our survival depends on it. If you have the time, research the term "juggernaut" online. It is a wonderful picture of what a Master can sometimes be.

The second special opportunity connected with Tradition Seven, and the basket, is anonymity. By generously contributing to the basket, that money can be used in places I may never see and provide literature or information to someone I will never meet. In a sense it is anonymous sponsorship at its finest. *It is the safest way a member can utilize money in AA.* There is no chance that my head will swell, or that I will find myself on a pedestal (a very dangerous place for alcoholics) at any time.

But perhaps most importantly, my contribution is the outward manifestation of my Higher Powers love for both me and the other alcoholics. It clearly shows how much I care for the person, dying of alcoholism, who hasn't yet found us yet. Someone years ago sacrificed their time, treasure (money) and talent so that Alcoholics Anonymous would be here for me. They made sure the group had money for rent and needed expenses so it was there when I was ready. They worked hard to ensure that those entities who carried that AA message far and wide were financially supported so that literature and information was there when I was ready for it. And they were obviously more concerned about those coming to AA in the future than they were about themselves – they knew their Higher Power would care for them. They had learned that when you focus your concern, through your financial contributions, on others - that very special door, through which your Higher Power works, opens wide and many good things come to you as a by-product of your actions.

Quite a number of them sacrificed greatly (the stories are in our literature) and did so without reservation because they knew how much they had been given when they received the gift of sobriety. Do my actions suggest that I have the same understanding and gratitude?

- Anonymous, St. Paul

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.

Thoughts From Your Board

Four years ago, I spent my first Minnesota summer from June to September checked into a treatment facility just outside of the Twin Cities. Near the end my disease had brought me to my knees—a DUI trial, multiple hospital visits for pancreatitis, suicide attempts, bouts of homelessness in the Pacific Northwest, losing jobs, drug-induced psychosis, a police cruiser outside my house, and everything else that signaled jails, institutions, or death. I'm grateful that a fourth option emerged that summer as I tried to sort out exactly what sober life might look like, what the recovery option might look like.

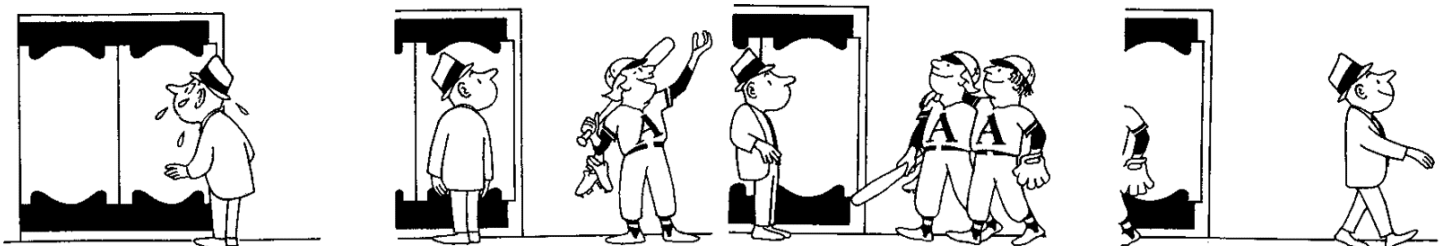
The day I got dropped off at my sober house, a friend from treatment was on my porch within five minutes. I asked him to walk to a meeting with me and he shook his head incredulously. "Bro you just got out, you don't need to go to a meeting. You've been in a 3-month meeting all summer. Let's get food. Are you serious?"

I convinced my friend to walk the two miles with me to an 8 o'clock meeting, and that was the start of my recovery in St. Paul. Since then, I've worked the steps multiple times over, survived a relapse, gotten honest about things I never thought would escape my lips, taken at least one meeting to an outside facility a month, and (on my sponsor's suggestion) accepted nominations to be of service. That is how I ended up a representative for my home group of the St. Paul Intergroup Council in 2017, and consequently nominated and voted onto this Board for 2018 and 2019. I am grateful for the strengthening of my sobriety that board service has provided and the opportunity to help other alcoholics.

I want to go back to that friend from my first night in St. Paul. We drifted apart over the years, and I found out recently that he passed away from our disease. As I got deeper into my recovery and the fellowship, his own recovery seemed to be based on lunch with me here and there and staying busy with work. He had plenty of reasons. "I don't need meetings, catching up with you is like a meeting." "I'm just not about that Higher Power thing, bro." And the one that has haunted me the most this last week. "I know I won't use again because I am 100% sure I will die if I do, and I don't want to die."

Intergroup supports 700+ meetings each week across multiple counties. I think about how many lives that is. My life, your life, our friends' lives, the lives of the friends we haven't met yet...and I'm just blown away. I mean, you can look up a meeting on your phone and find recovery within an hour from where you sit most times of the week. That is so special, and important. To me, serving on the Board is simply another opportunity I've said "yes" to. Sorting out which of those "yes's" keeps me more or less alive is not my job; that's my Higher Power's business. That's beyond my paygrade. My job consists of spiritually minded action, which includes being of service when the call comes. And if you'd asked me four years ago watching Fourth of July fireworks across a lake in treatment that I'd be on an AA-related Board today elegizing the friend sitting next to me, I'd think you were drunk. But fortune telling is also beyond my paygrade.

Guillermo O., 2019 Member-At-Large



A.A.® was founded on the premise that it would be self-supported through member contributions.

Over the past 58 years, contributing a single dollar has become almost a tradition. But will just one dollar a meeting sustain us today?



1960 ... 26c
2018 ... \$8.10



196010c
2018 ... \$3.50



1960 ... 28c
2018 ... \$2.51

Today's dollar has less than 12 cents of the purchasing power of a 1960 dollar. That means it takes \$8.50 to buy the same thing that one dollar bought in 1960.*



Please help keep us self-supporting. Do what you can—and if you can, make it: **3 Bucks or more in 2018**

*according to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistic (as of 02.28.2018) www.bls.gov

Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

THANK YOU, OWLS! A big thanks to all of our Night Owls for their service to the Intergroup and the Fellowship during April.

There are quite a few Night Owls and groups who have been serving for a long time – years and years for some. Ask any of them, and they will tell you the service has changed over the years. Not so many years ago, the majority of the calls the Owls took were for meeting information – when and where. With the excellent on-line meeting directory and smart phones, these calls are far fewer than before.

So the total number of calls in a typical Night Owl shift are lower, and they're now more likely than not to be an alcoholic in distress. Newcomers, people in relapse, and those still sober but stressed call our number for the help and support we can bring them. Thanks to our many Night Owl volunteers, these folks reach a sober alcoholic who can assist, and get them in touch with one of our many Twelve Step volunteers.

WANTED: One New Night Owl Committee volunteer

The Night Owl Committee members take turns carrying the back-up (Phone) for one week at a time. We help out if a volunteer has a problem and we also make the reminder calls.

Requirements:

- 1 year sobriety
- Answer the back-up phone during your rotation
- Experience with Night Owl
- 2 yr commitment

Thank you!

Frank N.
Night Owl Committee Coordinator

Reminders to all groups! Please let us know if you get a new Night Owl Coordinator for you group so that we are reminding the right person. Send e-mails to the committee at nightowl@aastpaul.org

Group and Area News

New Meeting: A *New Light* is now hosting an Open, All-Ages, Women's meeting 11:30AM Thursdays at the Messiah Episcopal Church, 1631 Ford Parkway, Saint Paul, 55116. The Format is Big Book, and the location is Accessible.

New Meeting: the *To Be Determined* group is hosting A Closed, Mixed, All-Ages meeting 7:00PM Sundays at the Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave., Saint Paul 55104. The Format is Topic/Discussion. Newcomers and Returnees especially welcomed.

Meeting No More: The Wednesday 7PM Big Book, 12 & 12 *Middleton Big Book* at the Church of the Apostles in Burnsville is no longer active.

Please Let us know about any meeting changes, new meetings, or any meetings that are no longer. Please email: lifeline@aastpaul.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.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Jul 21st, Aug 18th, Sep 15th

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, May 15th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Last month minutes reviewed, motioned Bob Z and seconded by John K, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, C.J. M – Total Contributions: Up \$2,762. We brought in a couple hundred dollars from the Spring Fling event. Sales: Down \$2,000.00 Total Income and the Net Income: Remains flat over the first couple of months of the year. **Alt Treasurer Position still open. Please contact CJ M or the office if you or someone you know if interested!
4. Office Report, Bill S – Theresa Living Center (Needs women volunteers for the 2rd, 3rd, and 4th Friday of the month at 7pm. 917 Jessamine Ave East St Paul 55106. *Please email lifeline@aastpaul.org for further information.*
5. Night Owl Report, Frank N – 2 N.O. Shifts available. WANTED: 1 New Night Owl Committee Volunteer. N.O. Train is held every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10am in the Intergroup Office. *Please contact Frank N at NightOwl@aastpaul.org.*
6. Website Report, Jonathan L – 730 regular weekly meetings supported by 287 groups in the area. Up 2 group and 3 meetings. 9 service opportunities available. *Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.*
7. Outreach Program, Carolyn M – There are 0 "MIA" meetings on the list. *Please contact Carolyn M at outreach@aastpaul.org.*
8. Update from the Board, Spring Fling Recap: 125 attendees at the dinner and 200 attendees at the speaker/dance! Intergroup will be switching phone services -- there will be an informative Night Owl Workshop during the Intergroup Open House. The workshop will teach the Night Owl volunteers how to easily roll over the phones with the new system.
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C – Proposal passed for a combined workshop with other districts. District 15: Meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month to avoid Memorial Day commitments. Volunteers needed for the Washington County Jail – Meetings are Tuesdays @ 7pm and Saturdays @ 6pm. Area Assembly discussion points: Google for non-profit and request to remove all AA material from YouTube. June 25th Potluck – more info to come. NO BOOZE CRUISE \$30 a ticket in Stillwater on June 22nd – more info to come. District 19: Dan R – June Assembly is coming up. Area budget is being constructed and the High School Outreach position is OPEN.
10. Upcoming Intergroup Events: Saint Paul Intergroup's Spring Fling on Saturday, April 28th @ 6 PM, Hospitality Suite at Gopher State May 25th – May 27th , and Saint Paul Intergroup's Open House on Saturday, June 23rd @ 11 AM **Volunteers needed for the Saturday, May 26th from 7-10pm shift in the Gopher suite. Ice Cream Social is coming up -- more info to come!
11. Old Business: N/A
12. New Business: N/A
13. Group AA Announcements:
 - a. Intergroup will be selling Literature at Gopher State.
 - b. Curt will be doing his agenda at the next meeting.
 - c. OMD Potluck, Sobriety Recognition, & Speaker meeting - 1st Friday: 06/01 @7:00 pm in the NEW LOCATION: 550 W 7th St., Saint Paul. Speaker: Mitch
 - d. Maplewood Alano Potluck, Sobriety Recognition, & Speaker meeting - 3rd Saturday: 06/16 @6:30 pm at 1955 Prosperity Road.
 - e. Main Idea Sobriety Recognition: 2nd Friday: 04/13 7:30:9:00 pm located @ 499 Wacouta Street, St Paul.
 - f. Rule 62 Anniversary on Friday, June 22nd.
 - g. Women's Fireside Meeting held on Wednesday at 6:30 pm now has childcare!
 - h. Hudson Rolls and Nickels is hosting a SUNDAY FUNDAY on Sunday, June 24th – more info to come.
 - i. West End is hosting a Potluck 05/18 @ 8pm at the West End Club 955 West 7th Street, Saint Paul. Speaker: Paul C
 - j. Sunday Night Speaker Meeting @ 7pm located at Central Presbyterian Church 500 Cedar Street.
14. Suggestions for next month's agenda: N/A
15. Grapevine Report, John K; Volunteer for July, Julie
16. Concept XII review, Erik M; Volunteer for Concept XII for July, Brian L
17. Mock Rep Report, Rob C; Volunteer for July, Carl C
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8; District 15, District 19, Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; Defogged Men's Group, St. Paul; Fireside Women's Big Book, St. Paul; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Lakeview AA, Maplewood; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano, Maplewood; No Time Like the Present, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Rule 62, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul; Uptown, St. Paul; West End, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

<u>2018 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—May 2018</u>	
Chair:	Lesli D.	Meeting information	79
Alternate Chair:	Rob C.	Inventory/hours/location	18
Secretary:	Carolyn M.	12th Step calls	6
Treasurer:	C.J. M.	Temporary sponsor	10
Alternate Treasurer:	TBD	Speaker request	25
Members-at-Large 2018:	Tom S. & Erik M.	Staff & Other Calls	180
Members-at-Large 2019	Brian L. & TBD	Total Calls	318
Advisor to the Board:	Jenni S.	Average Calls/Day	13.8
Manager:	Dennis B.	Total Visitors	236

July 2018 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, July 17th @ 7:30 PM
 SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH (Church Basement)
 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

MAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	23
Total Group Contributions:	\$2777
Number of Faithful Fivers:	16
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$215



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 May**

- Anoka Day By Day
- Dakota Alano MON 8PM
- Dakota Alano SAT 11AM
- Dakota Alano THUR 1145AM
- Dakota Alano WED AM Roosters
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Defogged Men's Group
- Easy Does It
- Forest Lake Alano
- Gloria Dei AA
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Maria Drunk Squad
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Wed Night
- Saturday Morning Treats
- Shivering Denizens
- Summit Hill
- There's a Better Way
- Third Edition Group
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Thursday Night AA Fellowship Club
- White Bear SAT AM Women's Group
- Women's 12 & 12 Monday

Thanks to all of the FANTASTIC Office Volunteers who helped in May

Annie H., Barb M., Bob P., Chris H., Chuck L., David D., Debbie, Desiree C., Emily, Frank D., Heather R., Henry O., Jimmy D., Kristen H., Kristi W., Marc S., Marcia Noah R., Pam M., Patrick C., Peter W., Steve R., Suzanne B.,

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



Rotation – Infinite and Important in Principle

One year ago, I began this experience of writing for the St. Paul Intergroup newsletter. The topic was "Rotation". I am firmly convinced this is one of our most vital principles we practice in AA, and it is useful to inventory its effects to illustrate its importance.

In my thirty-plus years of service to AA, the most common length for the general service positions I've held has been two years. An almost universal experience of AA's is that we accept a service position because of willingness, and like our sobriety, we learn by doing. On the trailing edge of the two years, we're comfortable in our niche in service, and seemingly too-quickly we rotate out of the position.

As your West Central Region (WCR) trustee, rotation is magnified because of the multiple roles in which we serve. I will serve a one-year term as chair of the General Service Board's (GSB) Trustee Nominating Committee. I've been fortunate to have served for one year prior to chairing. I have also been asked to service for a second year on the Trustee Finance Committee, but after two years on the Trustee International Committee, I have been "reassigned" to the Trustee International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee.

My AAWS Director service is a two-year term as a regional trustee. There are two general service trustees who serve a four-year term. This was part of the structural design that Bill Wilson put in place as he designed the conference structure and documented it in the Concepts. It brings stability and continuity. Non-trustee directors (3) generally also serve four years, too. These five people are dedicated to GSB work, versus the regionals, who serve the region and GSB for 4 years, but only 2 on one of the two corporate boards (AAWS or AAGV).

On AAWS, I have been shifted as chair of the new Internal Audit Committee to chair of Nominating. I continue as a member of the Technology Services Committee, and I continue to chair the ad hoc committee on literature/price changes (the DELTA committee I wrote about two months ago). So, a bit of rotation, a bit of continuity. I share with you that I treasure all these unique experiences, and simply will do my best in my limited time remaining on AAWS, which will end at the close of the 2019 General Service Conference.

These are the mechanics of rotation that I'm experiencing as a trustee, *but what are some of the principles being practiced that can be applied in your group, district or area?*

1. Humility: this is likely one of the most notable principles that rotation provides to the service worker that is new to a particular position. With one year being common on trustee committees, possibly two years, rotation helps to deflate the ego with the short time frames.

2. Leadership: the rapidity that a trustee is tasked with significant leadership roles to chair committees, making significant decision for AA in a very dynamic environment, can sometimes be challenging. At first, it can be like being a GSR and the first service meeting is an area assembly or regional conference!

3. Participation: With only four quarterly meetings (January, April, July, October) and only 2 days at each for all committee work to be done, everyone needs to be present and be active in the committee. Most trustee committees have a number of Conference advisory actions to complete in about six months, so everyone has to proactively take on many projects. This is the same from groups to Conferences. It's the animation of service by each and every service worker.

(continued p. 2)

Rotation – Infinite and Important in Principle (Con't).

4. Responsibility: Be it your group, district or area, just as much as an AA corporate board, requires that each and every one of us proactively assume what the next right thing is for the good of AA, and simply DO IT. It also means the accountability for the actions we take in the course of our service work.

5. Delegation: as has been described, the GSB and corporate boards have an array of committees, whereby the respective service entity can delegate the work to be done to one or a few. This starts with all of us with the little things like the delegation to make coffee and open the door, and each and every one of us can become a humble and obedient servant when a task is delegated to us.

6. Continuity: Rotation could be the prime cause for the lack of continuity, or this principle can be practiced and coupled with responsibility. Annual and biannual rotation provides ever more opportunity while challenging us to maintain continuity in whatever we leave and whatever we take up as the next endeavor.

7. Inclusiveness: With frequent rotation and a limited number of people coupled with a range of tasks to be accomplished, it behooves chairs and committees to include everyone available. As long as we each have a single purpose in our service, which is to be a humble and obedient servant for AA, everyone can be included.

8. Vision: Bill writes eloquently on this principle in Concept IX, and servants in AA must simultaneously exhibit vision while acting in a custodial fashion. We must always strive to be the best we can be individually and collectively, to insure the alcoholic stumbling one block away will find us when he or she is ready.

9. Being of Service: Yes, we use the term trusted servants for a reason. The upside-down triangle places the groups on top and everything else falls below them. AA's friend, Harry Tiebout, said the most important thing an alcoholic must do is find a way to surrender the unconquerable ego. Trustees like all AA members simply serve in different capacities. All AA members serve their home group, other service bodies, the still-suffering alcoholic in 12 step work, and most of all, to a God as we understand him. To be a servant one must be humble and obedient.

10. Prudence: The nature of the job as a trustee necessitates dealing with large sums of money when making policy decisions. It's useful to recall how it affects the home group and 7th Tradition basket. Long-term effects must be considered, because rotation makes it someone else's responsibility very soon. Living within our means is an important principle to always keep in mind.

11. Trust: Concept III reminds us that the program rests on mutual trust. It also calls it a symbol of "implicit confidence". This will only work if during our tenure we do our absolute best so that the next person rotating in finds the work we are doing worthy to continue and that we have maintained what was entrusted to us is in as good or better condition from when we received it – the "attached string" Bernard shares about in AA Comes of Age.

Rotation – Infinite and Important in Principle (Con't).

12. Unity: Our most cherished possession, it must always be in the forefront during the rotation process, so the transition from the current to the new service worker is as fluid and flawless as possible. This can only take place if we have the interests in mind of both AA and the next responsible person.

These are twelve of many interwoven principles that must be demonstrated by all the members of AA. With the array of committees and boards that trustees participate on and rotate through during their tenure, these and others provide the direction needed to be an effective servant to Alcoholics Anonymous, and these principles can be applied to all service workers in AA.

Tom A.
West Central Region Trustee & AAWS Director

A.A. Pamphlets – Our Third Tradition Literature

Every year at our General Service Conference, and in the months prior to the Conference, our Fellowship discusses and debates A.A. pamphlets. There seem always to be new pamphlets being suggested, edits being made to existing pamphlets, and sometimes proposals to retire certain pamphlets. This year was no different. It took hearing someone else call pamphlets our Third Tradition literature for me to have a light bulb go off in my mind. It made sense of the dozens and dozens of pamphlets we have. Many have the purpose of welcoming alcoholics with specific backgrounds or identities or cultures to the Fellowship by letting them know that there are others like them who are already here.

The long form of our Third Tradition states that "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover." The short form of the Tradition says that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. In any case, the message is clear – anyone, no matter their identity or circumstances or culture or background, can become a member of our Fellowship if they suffer from alcoholism.

You may be surprised to know that in spite of the useful intent of our pamphlets, their existence can generate strong feelings among A.A. members. Some members react to the sheer volume of pamphlets we have. There are dozens of pamphlets available for purchase through the A.A. Literature Catalog online. Others react to the content of the pamphlets. I have heard arguments that pamphlets targeted towards various demographic, cultural, or language groups run counter to A.A. recovery principles – that we should encourage newcomers in A.A. to see themselves as alcoholics first and foremost. Most of us have heard the familiar warning in A.A. meetings that any idea that we are different threatens us with "terminal uniqueness."

Two of the pamphlets that were debated and approved by the 2018 Conference Delegates were a new pamphlet, "The God Word," and a revised and renamed pamphlet, "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A." I would suggest that the pamphlets, no matter what anyone thinks about them, are first and foremost great examples of Third Tradition literature. "The God Word" pamphlet approved by the Conference was first published by the A.A. service structure in Great Britain. Its message is specifically aimed at those alcoholics who are agnostic or atheist. The pamphlet attempts to reassure these alcoholics that they are welcome in A.A. even though our Twelve Steps and our Big Book include many references to God and spiritual principles. Tradition Three reminds us that we ought not refuse anyone who wishes to recover from alcoholism.

(Continued page 4)

A.A. Pamphlets – Our Third Tradition Literature (Con't).

Likewise, the newly-revised pamphlet aimed at the LGBTQ community is intended to help those whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity expand beyond the traditional straight culture. As is so important for all alcoholics, identifying with the stories of other alcoholics is key to recovery. Representing stories and experience across the LGBTQ community is particularly challenging since the community is quite diverse itself. For example, when debating the new pamphlet, the Literature Committee and Conference Delegates acknowledged the many variations of identity where it concerns gender. The Literature Committee asked the A.A. World Services editorial staff to avoid the use of limiting or binary language regarding gender as the staff continues to edit the pamphlet. This openness to a group of people using their own definitions of identity goes a long way towards honoring Tradition Three.

No matter what I think of the number of pamphlets we develop and publish as a Fellowship, I am now a champion of them as Third Tradition literature. Our pamphlets offer alcoholics who are first discovering A.A. a chance to see themselves represented in the stories of those who are already here. Our pamphlets put the spirit of Tradition Three into action. Welcoming all who suffer from alcoholism is a proactive responsibility of ours as a Fellowship and goes beyond a mere passive acceptance of diverse members.

Thanks for all your service,

Curt K.
 Delegate – Panel 67
 Area 36 – Southern Minnesota
 delegate@area36.org

ST. CLOUD ROUNDUP

"The Spiritual Program of Action"

October 26-27, 2018

<p>SPEAKER LINEUP</p> <p>FRIDAY</p> <p>7:00 pm Vicki A. - Al-Anon Blaine, MN</p> <p>8:30 pm Mike M. - AA Cedar Rapids, IA</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>1:30 pm Mike J. - AA Hibbing, MN</p> <p>3:00pm Alateen</p> <p>3:30 pm Brian P. - AA Dallas, TX</p> <p>7:00 pm Cathleen T. - Al-Anon Dallas, TX</p> <p>8:30 pm Peter M. - AA Hollywood, FL</p>	<p>MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>3 Legacies Workshops</p> <p>9:00 - 9:50 am Recovery</p> <p>10:00 - 10:50 am Unity</p> <p>11:00 - 11:50 am Service</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>8:00 am Big Book Meeting</p> <p>8:00am Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>EXCELLENT SPEAKERS FUN WORKSHOPS GREAT FELLOWSHIP!</p> <p>St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center 10 4th Ave South St. Cloud, MN</p> <p>Hotels</p> <p>Kelly Inn (connected to convention center): 320-253-0606 Le St. Germain Suite Hotel (next to Kelly Inn): 320-654-1661 Country Inn & Suites 320-252-8282 120 7th Ave SE St. Cloud</p>
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Ice Cream After Speakers Both Nights!!
\$4.00

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Registration Badge is Required for the Entire Roundup

Information: 320-761-4137 stcloudroundup@gmail.com	\$15.00 Pre-Registration Ends 10/22/18 Pre-Registration \$15.00 Registration \$20.00	Make Checks payable to SCR Mail To: St. Cloud Roundup PO Box 125 St. Cloud, MN 56302
Name _____		
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
Email (SCR use only) _____		
Pre-Registration \$15.00 AA _____ Al-Anon _____ Other _____		

Founder's Day Weekend 2018

November 23, 24 & 25, 2018

Celebrating 78 Years of AA in the Upper Midwest
and Honoring AA Members With One Year of Sobriety!

Register Online at: [www.FOUNDERSDAYMN.org](http://wwwFOUNDERSDAYMN.org)

Friday, November 23

4:00 PM Registration Opens
 7:00 PM * History of AA in the Upper Midwest
 Dick C. (Orono, MN)
 9:00 PM *AA Speaker:
 Myers R. (Dallas, TX)

Saturday, November 24

10:30 AM * Panel of Weekend Speakers
 1:00 PM AA Open Call-Up Meeting
 1:00 PM Al-Anon Open Meeting
 3:00 PM *Al-Anon Speaker:
 Craig M. (Alexandria, VA)
 6:00 PM Banquet
 7:30 PM *AA Speaker:
 Rose E. (Brooksville, FL)
 9:00 PM Dance

Sunday, November 25

9:00 AM Breakfast
 10:00 AM *AA Speaker:
 Judith R. (Bismarck, ND)

*These meetings are ASL Interpreted

Pre-Registration \$15.00*
At the Door \$18.00*
 Registration required and must be paid to attend Founder's Day Weekend events.

Banquet (Limited Seating) \$39.00*
 The Banquet begins at 6:00 pm Saturday evening.

Breakfast \$20.00*
 The Breakfast begins at 9:00 am Sunday morning. Theatre seating will be provided at 9:45am for the Speaker Meeting.

Founder's Day Weekend Dance
 Saturday 9:00 pm

*Prices subject to change prior to event

Activities and Accommodations at
DoubleTree Bloomington - Minneapolis South - Bloomington, MN
 7800 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55439 • 952.835.7800 or 800.222.8733

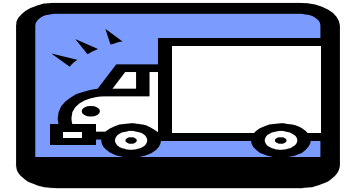
Special Room Rates are available with early reservations.
 Please make reservations directly with the DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel.
 Indicate they are for Founder's Day Weekend.

St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010

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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 *Individual Contribution* Enrollment Form

Your Intergroup strives to be self-supporting, and with your personal support we can 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. Please consider becoming one of our *Faithful Fivers* (\$5.00/month), *Terrific Tenners* (\$10.00/month), or *Fantastic Fifteeners* (\$15.00/month).

1. Contact information:

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Address _____
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Start on ____/____/____
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 Fantastic Fifteener (\$15.00/month)

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