



Step Three: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

THE UNIVERSE IS MY HIGHER POWER

My name is Jon; I am an Alcoholic. I am also an atheist.

I went into rehab many years ago and saw the Serenity Prayer written on a blackboard with the word "God" as big as the rest of the prayer. When I found the prayer was used at A.A. meetings, I immediately closed my eyes, ears and mind to everything to do with A.A. I went to dozens of meetings while in rehab and don't remember a thing, not ever the Twelve Steps.

When I came back to A.A. years later, I had friends who told me to the room as my higher power ("group of drunks") and to pray, even though I don't believe in any religious deities. When it came to the Third Step Prayer though, I rebelled, mainly because of the "Thys" and "Thees." How can a prayer published in 1939 use old English? It was a few years before I saw the sentence below the prayer that said I didn't have to use these words. My closed-mindedness again

My sponsor asked me to record all of the happy coincidences in my life, especially after I stopped drinking. He thought that would lead me to adopt a loving God, but to me they were just happy coincidences. My higher power did evolve though. IT wasn't anything religious. It was acceptance of myself as a small thing in a massive and magnificent universe. It serves me well.

I was able to work my way through the Steps with the universe as my higher power. I still "pray" but not to any religious deity. My "prayer" is a moment of calm I find when I take stock of whatever issue is on my mind and stop thinking of it as the biggest problem that exists. In light of everything and everyone around me, my biggest problems aren't the most important thing in the universe, and neither am I.

Other sponsors and people I meet in the rooms sometimes try to lead me towards a religious higher power, but I am 100 percent content with what I have.

Like everyone else, I am indebted to Bill W. And Dr. Bob, but I also grateful to the part that Jimmy B. played in the Big Book.

IT is many years since my last drink. I am happy and contented, Its all down to the Fellowship.

(Reprinted from *The "God" Word, Agnostic and Atheist Member in A.A.*, pgs. 15-16 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE - Jimmy B.

For a long time the only Higher Power I could concede was the power of the group, but this was far more than I had ever recognized before, and it was at least a beginning. It was also an ending, for never since June 16th, 1938 have I had to walk alone.

Around this time our big A.A. book was being written and it all became much simpler; we had a definite formula which some sixty of us agreed was the middle course for all alcoholics who wanted sobriety, and that formula has not been changed one iota down through the years. I don't think the boys were completely convinced of my personality change, for they fought shy of including my story in the book, so my only contribution to their literary efforts was my firm conviction, being still a theological rebel, that the word God should be qualified with the phrase "as we understand him"—for that was the only way I could accept spirituality.

(Excerpt reprinted from *Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition*, pg. 229, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

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 Three (Long Form): Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought our membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three gathered for sobriety may call themselves a group in our program, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

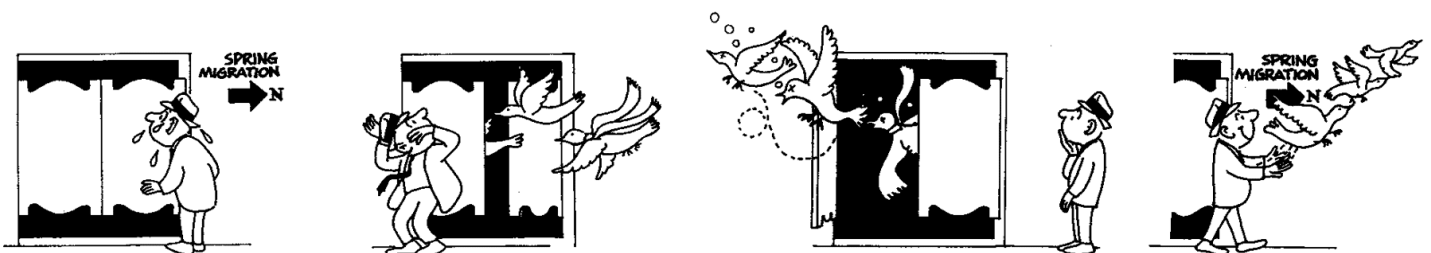
PROBLEMS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL (EXCERPTS)

The following excerpts from a Grapevine article by AA's co-founder Bill W. represent principles which have been reaffirmed by the members of the AA General Service Conferences of 1969, 1970, and 1972.

- "The problem of drug addiction in its several forms lies close to us all. It stirs our deepest interest and sympathy. Many A.A.'s, especially those who suffer these particular addictions, are now asking 'What can we do about drugs—within our Fellowship, and without?'"
- "Specifically, here is a list of questions we are often asked:

1. "Can a non alcoholic pill or drug addict become an A.A. member?"	NO
2. "Can such a person be brought, as a visitor, to an open A.A. meeting for help and inspiration.	YES
3. "If so, should these nonalcoholic pill or drug users be lead to believe that they have become A.A. Members?"	NO
4. "Can a pill or drug taker, who also has a genuine alcoholic history, become a member of A.A.?"	YES
- "Now there are certain things that AA cannot do for anybody, regardless of what our desires or sympathies may be. Our first duty, as a fellowship, is to insure our own survival. Therefore, we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity.
- "Sobriety - freedom from alcohol - through the teaching and practice of the 12 Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. Group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities, and they have always failed. It has been learned that there is no way possible to make nonalcoholics into A.A. members. We have to confine our AA groups to a single purpose. If we don't stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help any one.
- "I can see no way of making nonalcoholic addicts into A.A. members. Experience says loudly that we can admit no exceptions, even though drug users and alcoholics happen to be first cousins of a sort. If we persist in trying this, I'm afraid it will be hard on the drug user himself, as well as on A.A. We must accept the fact that no nonalcoholic, whatever his affliction, can be converted into an alcoholic . . . and an A.A. member.
- "We cannot give A.A. membership to nonalcoholic addicts. But, like anyone else, they should be able to attend open A.A. meetings. Provide, of course, that the groups themselves are will."

(Reprinted from the pamphlet *Problems Other than Alcohol (excerpts)*, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)



(Victor E. Cartoon reprinted with permission, Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.)

Thoughts from the Board

February is an important month for me and a time for reflection. While the outside world is swirling in snow and ice, Spring is not too far around the corner. This is a perfect metaphor for my recovery. During a cold, gloomy, and seemingly endless Minnesota Winter several years ago, my sanity was returned to me in February and a new "Spring" was visible on the horizon.

Before joining A.A., I was plagued by what I saw as the hopelessness of life. I wanted to give back, to add some glimmer to the world, but every avenue I took left me more jaded and discontent. Because of this program and the Fellowship, those feelings have been radically transformed and a new focus has been given to me. Early on in sobriety, my Sponsor (and extended Sponsorship family) instilled in me the importance of Service. I started attending the St. Paul Intergroup meetings almost immediately into my recovery as my home group's representative. The Board, the representatives from the various St. Paul groups and districts, and the unique fellowship provided at these meetings became a tent pole in my sobriety.

Next to working one-on-one with another alcoholic, I see nothing more vital than Intergroup and the services they provide. They keep the phones staffed, the 700+ meetings in St. Paul accounted for, the website up to date – because of their very existence a lifeline is extended to the person stumbling in from the cold of what could be (God willing) his or her **last** bender. Intergroup is right on the firing line with a hand held out in loving aid and understanding to the alcoholic in need.

I cannot think of a better (or more circular) way to give back than being on the Intergroup Board. It truly is an honor to serve you in this capacity and one in which I hope to serve well! I strongly believe that a program without tireless sacrifice of time and/or comfort is a program doomed to fail. It is with that same conviction that I humbly accept this position and will perform to the best of my ability, one day at a time.

Yours in grateful service,

- Mark J., 2019 Alternate Treasurer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gopher State Roundup XLVI, which will be held over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, 2019, takes an incredible amount of work to make it the exciting spiritual weekend that it is. If you would like to become a part of making it all happen, just check the committee you would like to work on and return the form to the address listed below. You will be contacted for your assignment as the Roundup date nears.

I would like to work on the following committee:

Greeters Ushers Registration Tickets
 Chair Room to Grow Staff Information Booth Security
 Al-Anon

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ e-mail _____

Phone Number with Area Code _____

Please return the completed form to:

Gopher State Roundup

P.O. Box 390533

Minneapolis, MN 55439-2026

-or-

Complete electronically at gopherstateroundup.org



St. Paul
Intergroup's
annual
Spring Fling!

Saturday April 27th

*Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer*

*285 North Dale Street
(just south of 94)
Saint Paul, MN 55101*



4:30PM

**Dinner & Entertainment, including
games and raffle**

\$5.00 admission, includes tickets

7:00PM

Open Speaker Meeting
Seventh Tradition



**For More Information
Call 651-227-5502**



ASL Available upon request.
Please contact Intergroup Staff by
March 22nd: 651-227-5502 or
Lifeline@aastpaul.org

Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

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 year commitment

Thank you!

Frank N.
Night Owl Committee Coordinator

Night Owl Tidbit: Do you have an interesting Night Owl story you want to share? Send an e-mail to nightowl@aastpaul.org.

Group and Area News

Meeting Change: Effective February 3rd, *Pocketing Our Pride* is now meeting at Hamline Elementary School, 1599 Englewood Ave, St Paul, MN 55104. Please enter through door #1. This location is ADA accessible.

Meeting Change: The *Restore Us to Sanity Men's* group is now meeting on 7:00PM Tuesdays at the Faith Covenant Church, 12921 Nicollet Avenue Burnsville, MN 55337 . The meeting is Closed, Big Book, All-Ages, and Accessible. Meeting is held in Room 150A. To access , use North Entrance, Lower Parking Lot by dumpsters.

Your News?

Have an AA potluck, holiday or special event you're planning?

We invite you to share your AA news here!

Please send your flyers to:
lifeline@aastpaul.org

We are happy to publish any AA-Related flyers in the Lifeline at your request.

As our publication is produced a month in advance (the January LL is published in December) we ask that all flyers be sent us six weeks in advance of the date.

We look forward to hearing from you.



My sponsor says the good thing about procrastination is that you always have something planned for tomorrow.

(Clara T. Cartoon reprinted with permission, Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.)



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



Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Mar 16th, Apr 20th, May 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, January 15th, 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Last months' minutes reviewed, motioned Tom and seconded by Steve, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, Justin D--\$3700 in the red, much better than anticipated. Got our check from Gopher state. Overall good year. *See Treasurer's Report for full financial details.*
4. Office Report, Dennis B—Annual report done by Lesli D. Expanding *The Lifeline*, adding articles from other states and mobile stories, which can be submitted to *lifeline@aastpaul.org*
5. Night Owl Report, Frank N—Orientation the 3rd Saturday @ 10AM, open shifts. Please email *Nightowl@aastpaul.org* or contact the office for more info.
6. Website Report, Sergey—There are 735 regular weekly meetings on the website. Down 3 groups and 1 meeting since last month. Password has changed for Night Owl login. Sergey is back from school. If speaker meetings want to have their upcoming speakers displayed next to their meeting on the website, please email *webservant@aast.paul.org*.
7. Outreach Program, Carolyn M—New Outreach Coordinator elected, Jimmy D. Please contact Jimmy D at *outreach@aastpaul.org*
8. Update from the Board, Lindsey D—Set dates for all Intergroup events for 2019. *Please see insert.*
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C—Proposed budget to be voted on on 1/16. There are 14 committees in District 8, need more people to get involved and become part of their committees. District 15: N/A District 19: N/A
10. Intergroup Events: *a. Recap*—New Year's Eve Party (CJ M & Lesli D): Ed M from Nicollet Group spoke, 100-125 people in attendance for speaker, about half that for the dance.
b. Upcoming—Spring Fling (Lindsey D & Rachel P) date set (April 27th) and flyers available
11. Old Business: N/A
12. New Business: N/A
13. Group AA Announcements: *a.* Thoughts from the Board by CJ M in January issue of *The Lifeline* includes a challenge, take to our groups and see how we can do.
b. Main Idea Sobriety Recognition—2nd Friday 7:30-9PM located @ 499 Wacouta St., St. Paul
c. OMD Potluck, Sobriety Recognition & Speaker meeting—1st Friday @7PM at 550 W 7th St., St. Paul. Speaker TBD
d. Maplewood Alano Potluck, Sobriety Recognition & Speaker Meeting—3rd Saturday @6:30PM at 1955 Prosperity Rd.
e. West End Potluck, Sobriety Recognition and Speaker meeting—4th Friday @7PM (Same location)
14. Suggestions for next month's agenda: N/A
15. Grapevine Report, Mark; Volunteer for February, Robin
16. Concept IX Review, Rachel P; Volunteer for Concept X, Andrew
17. Mock Rep Report, Lindsey D; Volunteer for February, Peter
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Attendance: District 8: Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; The Firing Line, Roseville; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Lakeview AA, Maplewood; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano Groups, Maplewood; One More Was Added..., St. Paul; Outright Mental Defects, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Problems and Solutions, St. Paul; Rule 62 Step & Tradition, St. Paul; West End, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

<u>2019 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—January 2019</u>	
Chair:	Rob C.	Meeting information	74
Alternate Chair:	Linsey D.	Inventory/hours/location	38
Secretary:	Rachel P.	12th Step calls	5
Treasurer:	Justin D.	Temporary sponsor	17
Alternate Treasurer:	Mark J.	Speaker request	40
Members-at-Large 2019:	C.J. M. & Vance O.	Staff & Other Calls	125
Members-at-Large 2020:	Mike C.	Total Calls	299
Advisor to the Board:	Lesli D.	Average Calls/Day	14.2
Manager	Dennis B.	Total Visitors	264

MARCH 2019 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, March 19th @ 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

JANAUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	46
Total Group Contributions:	\$7955
Number of Faithful Fivers:	26
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$655



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 January**

- A Baffled Lot
- Anoka Day By Day
- Como Park BB
- Cottage Grove Groups
- Dakota Alano MON 8PM
- Dakota Alano SAT 11AM
- Dakota Alano SAT 9AM As Bill Sees It
- Dakota Alano SUN 8PM
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Defiant Brats East
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fourth Dimension
- Friday Night Women's in W. St. Paul
- Friday Nite 12x12 By The Book
- Gloria Dei AA
- Gratitude in Action
- Happy Joyous and Free - Mahtomedi
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Hole in the Doughnut Group
- Hugo Group
- Island Lake Group
- Live and Let Live
- Macalester Group AA
- Maria Drunk Squad
- Mendota St. Peter's Sat 9AM
- Monday Meeting - Oakdale
- Office Walkin
- Pages of Wisdom
- Ridge Runners II Sat 830 AM
- Rivertown BB Group-Hastings
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Centennial Group
- Roseville Wed Night
- Rule 62 Step & Tradition Group
- Simple Reliance
- St. Joe's Hospital
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Third Tradition Northfield
- This Simple Program
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- Weekend Jumpstart II
- White Bear SAT AM Women's Group

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

- Angela B., Anne B., Charlie B., Chris H.,
- Cody D., Dan K., David D.,
- Debbie L., Dan K., Don S.,
- Erik H-L., Frank D., Jimmy D., Jodie H.,
- Katherine A., Marc B., Michael G.,
- Randy O., Ruth K., Steve L.,

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



“The Lost Weekend – General Service Board Style”

Yes, just a parody of a title many AAs will recall from our early history. No, the General Service Board didn't "lose" the weekend, but we were very adept at turning a two- or three-day weekend into a six-day weekend. I'd like to share how 21 AA's, along with the help of other alcoholics, staff members and other invitees can run out of time while talking about AA for twelve or more hours every day. Let me tell you how it happened, on a day-to day basis.

Wednesday:

We began the "weekend" on Wednesday the 23rd (some board members also worked on Tuesday). The General Service Board had formed a Leadership Committee that had developed an inventory of the Concepts and also an array of leadership questions, and Wednesday evening was devoted to a first review of the collective results of the information from all Board members. There was more information than time to digest it. Contained in it were thoughts on how we can be more effective, and I saw mirroring of concerns that are also being addressed by either the strategic plan initiatives and also from the work we are doing on Trustee Nominating Committee (more on that later).

I am one of the GSB members that the Chair of the GSB appointed to the committee to assemble the originating documentation, and I'd suspect we'll be tasked with organizing the information for further discussion with the whole Board.

Thursday:

Thursday was the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) corporate Board Meeting. I Chair the AAWS Nominating Committee and we met for a ½ hour before the full AAWS Board convenes. We have been tuning up the selection process for NTDs and regionals coming on board each year. An AAWS Board meeting day is really 1-hour committee meetings (that never get done in an hour!) of each standing committee: Finance, Publishing, Internal Audit, and Technology/Communications/Services (TCS); after that, late in the afternoon we begin the actual AAWS Board meeting, typically followed by an executive session.

A summary of financial results for 2018 included: Contributions were \$8,384,721, 2.25% higher than budget and 0.29% lower than 2017. Online contributions were \$878,333, or 10.57% of total contributions. Sale of literature was \$14,020,149, and gross profit after shipping of \$9,452,615, or 67.4%. This profit is then used to support the publishing operation, and to fill the gap between expenses and contributions for services. Contributions were approximately 75% of expenses, but I will note that we adopted very conservative accounting by expensing off all the ERP expenses incurred to-date in 2018 as 2018 expenses rather than carry some forward as a pre-paid expense, which is an asset. The GSC being held in NYC also increased expenses as well as having a world service meeting, which is why the percent support is then lower.

Significant 2019 information includes: contribution budget was set at the 2018 level of the \$8.34M; Sales were budgeted with an additional \$800k for the new book, "Our Great Responsibility 1951-1970" being released (I believe this is the first new book by AAWS in close to 30 years, others were reprints, etc. of existing books). The bottom line is a budgeted \$454k, but that is also before the transfer to support La Vina, which is about \$150k.

The Publishing Committee forwarded a new editorial policy, and this will be on the GSC Agenda. This is a broad editorial policy that would change how we edit our existing literature, and as a policy, the GSC is the body that sets this long-term policy. Digital distribution is also getting a good deal of attention, one reason being – surprisingly – the corrections systems. There is a significant movement afoot that has many facilities moving to no books and having eBooks only for correctional facilities, and AAWS is addressing this need. The Twelve Concepts audio project is moving along well, with English and French recordings approved and Spanish corrections in progress. The Daily Reflections video project has been and the GSC will be having a sharing session on Thursday to have the fellowship discuss the broader issue of "video in A.A."

The TCS Committee is extraordinarily busy. Projects they are working on include a new web site, the development of an app, onboarding AA entities onto the Meeting Guide, moving forward with the YouTube project, and responding to the Conference PI committee regarding Google AdWords and Google Grants. We hope to see an app before the conference!

(Continued Pg. 2)

“The Lost Weekend – General Service Board Style” - Page 2**Thursday (Cont.):**

An area of interest in our region as well as others of course, is the Safety Card. A new draft has been written and shared with the directors. It is going to be more verbose and it is quite different than the card.

The ERP system is approaching its final phases, and this is the most demanding time of all on staff and outside resources. An issue with data conversion will delay the original launch date, and a revised date will be announced soon. There were so many databases, separately made and supported over the last two decades that this process has been a bit more challenging than originally estimated, but the results are going to be powerfully transformational. It is worth the pain and effort.

Friday:

Friday provided me with an opportunity that I know was precious and unique. I currently chair the Trustee Nominating Committee (TNC), and we were tasked with the high responsibility of interviewing seven candidates for the two Class A openings. I was in the room by 7 AM and we left a bit after 6 PM. In between we spent an hour per candidate, people who had a love for AA, some because of family; some because of involvement through their profession. What a privilege! We met on Saturday after our TNC meeting, where we settled on two candidates to recommend for election in May.

It was during this time that the Delegate Chairs spent the day with staff for their orientation. I'm sure we'll all get a chance to hear about their experience.

Saturday:

Now having been in NYC for 3 days, we began the actual General Service Board - weekend. The next three days included having the Delegate Chairs with us, which makes it more special. Of course, I couldn't have felt more privileged to have all four of our 2nd year delegates at the weekend: Christine/A35, Erika/A41, Anthony/A63 and Kathi/A76. If they weren't at their required corresponding trustee meeting, they were always at some other meeting.

Just to give you a flavor for a GSB weekend, we have five sessions, two committees at a time. The weekend started out with Trustees Conference meeting, and Christine was seated at the table with the rest of the committee. She actively participated, including her support of the GSC proposal all the WCR delegates submitted regarding the polling process.

I had to leave a bit early to get to my International Conventions/Regional Forums meeting. A few salient items I'm sure you'll be interested in: special forums are being re-instituted; the 2020 International in Detroit is budgeted for 47,500 attendees with a registration fee of \$115 for early registration and \$140 for registrations after 4/15/20.

The TNC had appointed a sub-committee to address an additional consideration requesting procedures for partial or complete reorganization of the GSB. This is actually something Bill suggested in 1962, in his "Seven Points" paper. I was overwhelmed by the response by the committee. After AA waited 56 years to address this issue, in two months a draft has been written to bring to the GSC. I'm sure it will get a good deal of reading and review by you and many others. The process that was designed both provides for reorganization as well as a process to restore the synchronous rotation of the GSB.

The work that we have been putting in to explore the composition and effectiveness of the GSB is also moving forward with great success. We have drafted a questionnaire that will initially be distributed to current and past GSB members and NTDs. A currently serving NTD on AAWS that serves with me, Deborah Koltai, volunteered her professional expertise in research to our TNC Committee and the work she did was extraordinary. This along with other information such as the realignment plan that I submitted to TNC, will be evaluated by the TNC and could provide some very large-scale changes to our GSB in coming years.

We did have four conference proposals to consider but did not forward them to the GSC because the Concepts either directly address the issues or because the issues are already being addressed by the committee.

(Continued Page 3)

“The Lost Weekend – General Service Board Style” - Page 3

Saturday (Cont)::

Finally, the big news from TNC: we recommended Sister Judith Ann Karam and Al Mooney, MD as the new Class A trustees. Sr. Judith Ann has an incredible business background as a hospital administrator which is why she was selected, but a fringe benefit for all of us is the stories she will share with you about working with Sister Ignatia as a novice. Al Mooney has a life dedicated to helping alcoholics as a doctor and brings a wide range of experience to the Board.

Sunday:

My third committee on the GSB is Finance & Budgetary. With the change in auditors last year, we now get quarterly compilations that are virtually the same as year-end statements, they just don't have the same level of auditing that year-end statements require. However, we are also now getting separate AAWS and GSB financials at AAWS Board meetings (every 6 weeks) and of course quarterly, so now we see the percent support from contributions on a quarterly basis. I am very pleased to see the enhanced accounting, and the new ERP system will take it up another notch.

We continue to evaluate options for the pension fund, notably for the class in the plan that is already retired. With stability and certainty the number one concern, finding a firm that can assume this class of investments would substantially reduce our exposure and responsibility, while also providing a great opportunity for the vested, retired employees. There are some other intricacies to address, but it is an important task we are fully deliberating.

I'd like to report on our other affiliate, AAGV, Inc. As you may know a new Publisher (formerly the EE) is being hired. AAGV is making a number of strategic changes to insure the long-term viability of the operation. Employee/organizational changes and a new budgeting process for 2019 are two very big changes taking place. There was a net loss of \$164k, most attributed to the severance of the prior executive editor. We will see more changes, and I am very hopeful that AAGV makes the move onto the new ERP system over the coming year. I can even envision a unified shopping cart so anyone can aggregate an AAWS and AAGV order.

While I wasn't able to attend the Trustee PI Committee meeting, it was reported that the GSC proposal from Area 35 to cease active use of the YouTube channel was tabled until July. On the other hand, a number of videos have been added to YouTube and analytical data will be available soon. PI also continues to work on a process to have an AA Membership Survey, which you may recall has been under review. I also wasn't able to attend the Trustee Literature meeting, but as you can assume their agenda is long. I wouldn't do justice to cherry pick just a few items, so be prepared for a long agenda in this committee.

A three-year communications plan is being prepared at the Office. We spent some time discussing it while in the Trustee Planning and Sharing Session. Elements of the Communications Audit are now being addressed to provide a more consistent and clear message of what AA does and does not do. I anticipate the GSC will see some sample items to review and consider. I look forward to upcoming background information.

Monday:

It almost seems anti-climactic to have the Monday GSB meeting. For the most part, it is each committee reporting on their activities, and when something needs to be brought before the entire board for a vote, we have whatever debate is necessary to address the issue. Because there are a number of policy items that get forwarded to the GSC, it takes some time to read all the recommendations that require a vote, but we tend to spend a significant amount of time on Sunday night reviewing the reports for errors, etc. to streamline Monday's meeting. This Monday meeting was typical, and we were done before noon.

....and then, it was time to go home to my home group.....

Yours In Service,
Tom A.
WCR Trustee, AAWS Director
General Service Board Secretary

2019 NAATW



National AA Technology Workshop

September 20-22, 2019 in Bowling Green, KY
Hosted by Area 26 District 3 and surrounding districts

Holiday Inn University Plaza ~ Sloan Convention Center
1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42103
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SERVICE IN TECHNOLOGY

We work together to serve and provide meaningful, useful and up-to-date technology expertise to the fellowship, members and non-member friends (special workers in technology). Our hope is to share the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through technology to help the next alcoholic.

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a venue to encourage the sharing of experience, strength, and hope regarding technology as it relates to AA

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.

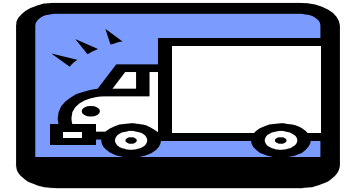
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