



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

Step Five – “What an order! I can’t go through with it.” Yet there I was sitting with my sponsor about to share with him every nook and cranny of my life’s deepest and darkest secrets. Did I want to do this? No of course not! But I did not want to go on the way I was living in the relentless grip of alcoholism. Plus, my sponsor had that something I wanted – he was, “happy, joyous and free.”

So we invited the God of my understanding into our conversation and hit the ground running. We started with my sex conduct, since that was an area of my life where I had no sense of proportion or propriety. I had no idea how to share in a healthy, intimate partnership as an honest and unselfish participant. After we finished, we discussed my ideal. My sponsor shared how his ideal had changed and developed as he continued his sober journey. That helped me see that this “New Way of Life” was a process of adaptation and growth – it was a relief to know that there was hope for me yet!

Next we reviewed my resentments. As I shared, a pattern emerged which my sponsor helped me to see and to understand. I learned that my infinite wants and needs kept crashing onto the shores of my selfish, self-centered, fear-driven expectations. I chronically assumed that others ought to live up to my expectations, rather than allow them to be themselves. I often entered into their lives driven to manipulate our relationship to suit me. This inventory showed me that “I want, I need” is not exactly a healthy prescription for one’s relationships or one’s way through life!

Fears were next. My sponsor asked if I wanted to be driven by my fears, or would I like to “get in the driver’s seat and learn how to be responsible for my actions?” It was simple, he said, “start with the principles of being ‘honest, willing, and open-minded,’ and you’ll soon see that instead of being driven by your fears, you’ll be motivated by some principles that you can apply in any situation.” More relief.

Last, we looked over my harm done to others. What a petty thief I was – I stole – and not just things. I stole people’s serenity (do it for me now!) and their good names (gossip). Inventory completed. It was quite evident that my old ideas of how to live and how to be a participant in the lives of others were deeply flawed.

So what to do? My sponsor suggested I follow the instructions on page 75 of the Big Book. I took some quiet time to review all I had shared. Then I said a prayer of gratitude that I knew myself in a new light. Finally, I reviewed my work on the first Five Steps. Was I ready to let go of my failed old ideals of “successful living, and embrace a new ‘Design for Living?’” You bet I was! On to Step Six!

-Anonymous, St. Paul, MN

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

The Program teaches me that the sobriety of the still suffering alcoholic should be more important to me than my own sobriety. The Fifth Tradition says that our "primary purpose" is to carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Think of it. Am I selfish or what? My abstinence is not my primary purpose? I thought that was the main reason I came to AA. The Fifth Tradition implies that my sobriety is secondary in importance to the sobriety of others. This seems like new information to me. I would take "...alcoholic who still suffers.." to mean not only the walk-ins, but regular attendees at meetings.

If any ten people, in or out of the program, were asked what AA meant to them I believe they would probably say it is a place where people get dry. Yet, the program tells us that this is not our "primary" reason for attending AA. My own abstinence is only a secondary purpose. As a matter of fact, if we devote ourselves to aiding our fellow suffering alcoholic we will naturally become sober without any direct effort to that end. It will just come.

At an orientation meeting in November of 1970 at the Midway group the facilitator made the statement that, "AA is not a temperance organization." We do not hate drinking. This is consistent with the Big Book, where it says that we should be careful never to show intolerance of drinking as an institution (pg. 103). Back in the early Twentieth Century the WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union), an organization opposed to drinking as an institution, was instrumental in lobbying for prohibition.

Alcoholic Anonymous neither endorses nor opposes prohibition. Drinking is not our issue. It is not our stigma. Helping the still suffering alcoholic recover from alcoholism rather than from just drinking is our primary purpose. Yet some of the AA group consciences in recent years have tended to demonize drinking as an institution. While alcoholism is a disease, its drinking effect is being regarded in some AA quarters as being bad or wrong, though it is neither. The defect resides within the alcoholic rather than in the bottle, or the pill for that matter.

This is not to advocate for drinking but the Tradition does not even suggest that we be sober to serve the still suffering alcoholic. In the discussion of the Twelfth Step the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, it says that all members can serve in some capacity, even if only to serve as a bad example. Who among us in recovery cannot say that we have been well-served by bad examples of some our drinking friends?

-Charles J., Mission TX

(Edited for content and flow)

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.

“The OTHER Serenity Prayer”

God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I am working on doing better, and the wisdom to know that you already love me just the way I am.

(Seen at the Sebastian Club, Sebastian, Florida)

Concept Five: Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Somewhere in his writings Bill W. makes the statement, “. . .drunks love to controvert...” We also know, from our own experience, that we are defiant folks who might give Don Quixote a run for his money, when it comes to ‘tilting at windmills.’ So, the question becomes—both on the personal and Fellowship front—how do we deal with the pent-up energy we feel when we want to challenge something? There is ample evidence that if we can’t find that ‘safety valve’ which will allow us to vent off that energy, there will eventually be a blow-up of some sort.

Having watched this in many, many service meetings—as well as finding it well lodged in my own inventory—I can fully understand the need for the valve. Fortunately, in Alcoholics Anonymous, we have actually two ways to protect our society and ourselves from these very disruptive, and sometimes harmful, excesses of emotion. The first is found in our Twelve Traditions and is called ‘The Group Conscience.’ It allows every voice to be heard and well considered—when it operates as intended.

The second way we find in Concept Five the other *safety valve* is in the form of the “Right of Appeal.” This is somewhat of a ‘court of last resort’ in getting a point of view heard that one feels has been largely ignored. As a matter of fact, you could even say it is a ‘back-up’ for the Group Conscience process. Concept Five, therefore, ensures that the process has not purposely or accidentally steamrolled over some consideration.

In another sense, Concept Five is like a Tenth Step for an organization. It suggests that reconsideration be given to things that appear unresolved. When I practice the Tenth Step, I actually give the spiritual principles I believe in the opportunity to be considered again in light of my actions. In a sense, my conscience is filling a Petition for Redress asking me to rethink if I might apply the principles to my actions.

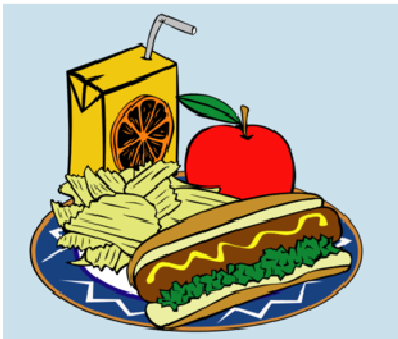
It’s those *safety valves* that keep us moving along in a relatively calm and consistent manner. It ensures that as individuals and also as a society we don’t cause chaos or confusion to those around us—making us much better citizens of the world.

- Anonymous

St. Paul Intergroup
~ 52nd Anniversary ~

Open House

Date: Saturday, June 23rd
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM



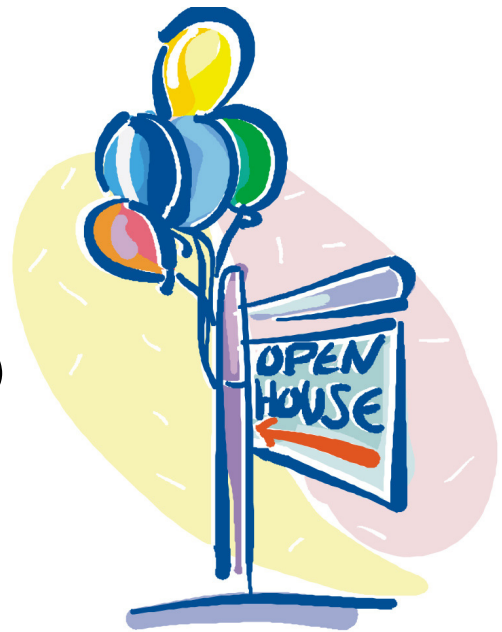
Join us for fellowship,
food and fun!!

608 7th Street West
St. Paul, MN 55102

(SE Corner of Michigan & West 7th)

For More Info Call Us:

651-227-5502



Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

May Open Shifts:

1st Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm
4th Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm
4th Tues 10:00 overnight til 6 am

Night Owl Committee news:

First of all, thanks to Cheryl B., who has served as the chair of the Night Owl coordinating committee for the past couple of years and has now rotated to other service opportunities. We are grateful for her service and wish her well.

One Saturday late in March, several committee members spent a Saturday afternoon calling all of the names on our Night Owl volunteer list. We did so to update our contact information for everyone, and to ask everyone whether they were still able to serve as Owls.

We got a very good response from many willing volunteers, as well as some who chose to "rotate off". We thank all for their service to Intergroup and the Fellowship.

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

Frank N.
Night Owl Committee chair

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: The Open, Thursday 12 Noon Meeting at the *New Brighton Alano* is now Step, Tradition, & Topic/Discussion. It is All-Ages and Mixed.

New Meeting: A *New Light* is now hosting an Open, Women's meeting 11:30 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 *Last Call Group* is now hosting an Open, Mixed, All-Ages meeting 7:00 PM Tuesdays in the Breakroom at 1440 Duckwood Drive, Eagan, 55122. The format is Step, and the location is Accessible.

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

Volunteers Needed!

Gopher State Roundup XLV will be held over Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27) at the Double Tree Bloomington. It takes an incredible amount of work to make it the exciting spiritual weekend that it is. If you would like to become part of making it all happen, Sign-up electronically at gopherstateroundup.org.

Service opportunities include: Greeters, Ushers, Tickets, Registration, Chair "Room to Grow," Staff the Information Booth, Security, and AI-Anon.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, May 19th, Jun 16th, July 21st

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, March 20th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Last month minutes reviewed, motioned Steve B and seconded by Paul C, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, C.J. M – Historically February is a slower month since contributions are typically made on a quarterly basis. Total Contributions: \$3,588.00 (Decrease of \$1,866) Expenses: \$9,388.89 (Decrease of \$3,582) Total Income and the Net Income: Possible discrepancies in the Total Income -- Our Treasurer and Office Manager will have accurate totals in the following month.
4. Office Report, Bill S – Intergroup Office is now designing anniversary greeting cards and selling gold and white fancy \$16 medallions. Please note that there is ALWAYS a Golden Opportunity to volunteer at Intergroup. Intergroup needs volunteers – especially answering the phones and helping around the office during the 12-3 and 3-6 time slot. Orientation for answering calls at the Office is held every Saturday at 10am. *Please email lifeline@aastpaul.org for further information.*
5. Night Owl Report, Cheryl B – Frank N will be assuming responsibilities as the new Night Owl Chair. 1 Committee Chair position open and 4 open Night Owl Shifts (dates and times can be found in the Lifeline). *Please contact Cheryl at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the Intergroup Office.*
6. Website Report, Jonathan L – Up 22 Meetings – the Richmond, WI and Riverfalls, WI Alano Clubs have been added to our directory. Please have your Home Group members check out the 14 volunteer opportunities found on the website. *Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.*
7. Outreach Program, Carolyn M – There is 1 "MIA" meeting on the list. Please encourage your Home Group Members to get involved in Outreach! *Please contact Carolyn M at outreach@aastpaul.org.*
8. Update from the Board, Rob C – The Board invites all Reps and AA Members to volunteer at all Intergroup Events. Intergroup welcomes feedback/new ideas for our events. The Office will provide an update within the next couple months about switching phone services from Century Link to Comcast. What we know now -- the Office will save \$250 a month with the switch and the transfer will be a lot simpler than we thought.
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C – Alt District Chair received the General Service Conference Agenda and the District is reviewing. Area Corrections Chair presented on Correctional Facilities. District 15: Spring Fellowship Event was a success. Washington County Jail is breaking down on volunteers – must meet all requirements. New CPC Chair – helping encourage more people to get involved. The District is looking forward to the Bethel Area Assembly. District 19: Dan R – 770 Pamphlets were handed out to medical facilities. Alt DCM reviewed with the group the Area Assembly Agenda.
10. Upcoming Intergroup Events: AA Saint Paul Intergroup's Spring Fling: Saturday, April 28th (Please see flyer for further information)
11. Old Business: N/A
12. New Business: N/A
13. Group AA Announcements:
 - a. OMD Potluck, Sobriety Recognition, & Speaker meeting - 1st Friday: 04/06 @7:00 pm in the NEW LOCATION: 550 W 7th St., Saint Paul. Speaker: Joe V.
 - b. Maplewood Alano Potluck, Sobriety Recognition, & Speaker meeting - 3rd Sunday: 04/15 @7:30 pm at 1955 Prosperity Road.
 - c. Came To Believe, 7PM Monday night meeting in Highland Area reads through Spiritual Awakening – please join.
 - d. Main Idea Sobriety Recognition: 2nd Friday: 04/13 7:30:9:00 pm located @ 499 Wacouta Street, St Paul.
 - e. Study In Action Meeting at the Maplewood Alano Club Fri-Sun – more info to come next month.
14. Suggestions for next month's agenda: N/A
15. Grapevine Report, Lindsey D; Volunteer for April, John
16. Concept I review, Tom S; Volunteer for Concept II for April, Guillermo O
17. Mock Rep Report, Carolyn M; Volunteer for April, Rob C
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8; District 15, District 19; Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; The Firing Line, Roseville; Happy, Joyous & Free, Mahtomedi; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Look To This Day, St. Paul; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano, Maplewood; No Time Like the Present; Roseville; Outright Mental Defectives, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Problems & Solutions, St. Paul; Rule 62, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul, Women's Basic Text, St. Paul .

<u>2018 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—March 2018</u>	
Chair:	Lesli D.	Meeting information	89
Alternate Chair:	Rob C.	Inventory/hours/location	26
Secretary:	Carolyn M.	12th Step calls	4
Treasurer:	C.J. M.	Temporary sponsor	17
Alternate Treasurer:	Madeline S.	Speaker request	30
Members-at-Large 2018:	Tom S. & Erik M.	Staff & Other Calls	161
Members-at-Large 2019	Brian L. & Guillermo O.	Total Calls	327
Advisor to the Board:	Jenni S.	Average Calls/Day	14.9
Manager:	Dennis B.	Total Visitors	284

MAY 2018 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, May 15th @ 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

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	36
Total Group Contributions:	\$4283
Number of Faithful Fivers:	17
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$480



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 March**

- Amigos III
- Anoka Day By Day
- Apple Valley Daily Reflections
- Basic Text
- Children of Chaos Plus
- Cliffhangers I Thursday Night
- Como Ave Step & Topic
- Dakota Alano Sat Nite Spkr Mtg
- Firing Line
- Forest Lake Alano
- Gloria Dei AA
- Grovers Thursday Night
- Happy Joyous and Free - Mahtomedi
- Hazelwood AA
- Highland Park Groups
- Just for Today Women's
- Lindstrom Thursday 12x12
- Look to This Day
- Meeting of the Waters
- No Time Like the Present
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Centennial Group
- Saturday Morning PS Meeting
- Saturday Morning Serenity Group
- Shivering Denizens
- Sisters of Serenity
- Steps to Freedom
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Uptown Club
- White Bear Lake Redeemer
- White Bear SAT AM Women's Group
- White Bear Wed AM Women's

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

- Adam M., Barb M., Carter N., Chuck L., Crissie P.,
- Dan F., David D., Don B., Frank D.,
- Henry O., Jimmy D., Kristi W.,
- Marc S., Matt F., Matt S., Melanie J.,
- Michelle K., Patrick C., Suzanne B.,
- Tiffani M.,

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



Letting Our Friends Recommend Us in the Digital Age

There is no denying that in the past decade social media in its many forms has risen to become a dominant way of communicating. Because of its potential as a communications tool, A.A. has for several years been researching, debating, and making decisions about whether it should or could use the emerging social media platforms to carry its message of recovery. I have generally been in favor of exploring the potential of social media. Last year at our annual General Service Conference in New York, I was among the Delegates who voted in favor of establishing YouTube Channels for A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine.

This year I am returning to the General Service Conference with plans to ask our Fellowship to reconsider this decision and remove our YouTube presence (at least temporarily) to address the unintended consequences of non-AA content that populates our Channels. I am going to suggest that we work harder to find ways to encourage our friends (professional associations, national religious and spiritual groups, corrections officials, and treatment facilities) to become our advocates in the social media realm. The solution to the troubles inherent in social media may be solved by finding an innovative way to return to an old principle – it is better to let our friends recommend us than to promote ourselves (from the long form of Tradition Eleven).

When I voted to create YouTube channels for A.A., I did so with the understanding that YouTube was a media platform that allowed us to prohibit posting of comments by visitors to the site and that we would be able to block outside groups from posting content to our channel. By comparison, YouTube seemed like a much more secure option than Facebook or Twitter, which we all know can be the fertile ground of controversy both publicly and privately.

Now that I've seen the A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine Channels in action, I am concerned that videos shown in the "Up Next" section of the channel are often carrying messages counter to A.A. recovery. The list of videos displayed included one titled, "Bill Wilson: Con Man," another was a testimonial by a person describing how she got sober without A.A, and another was a video showing fully recognizable images of attendees and speakers at an A.A. roundup. Also troubling is the fact that the next video in the "Up Next" queue begins playing immediately after whatever video was first played. So even if visitors to one of our YouTube Channels manage to pick an A.A. video first, if they continue to watch they are likely to next be shown one or more videos not related to A.A. and maybe even videos hostile to A.A. I don't think that's the result we were hoping for with our social media presence.

Pausing this experiment with YouTube would give us time to work out whether we could use the platform and avoid the unwelcome content from populating the "Up Next" feature. To have unwanted and contrary content automatically loading for our visitors both dilutes the A.A. message and risks unintentionally giving the impression that A.A. is affiliated with the creators of the other videos or endorses the messages of the other videos. Tradition Six cautions us against any affiliation with outside entities, real or implied. Tradition Eleven guides us to avoid setting up any individual A.A. members as spokespersons for our Fellowship and warns against identifying ourselves at the level of public media. The videos of fully identifiable A.A. members speaking about A.A. in any context gives the impression that Tradition Eleven is no longer a value of A.A.

This early experience with YouTube also causes me to want to hold off establishing any other new social media presence for A.A. Plans are currently being made to launch LinkedIn and Facebook pages. Given a close look at the information about these two platforms, it seems that we are headed toward the very same issues of outside content being presented along with A.A. material without our ability to curate what that content is. And each of these platforms would also allow visitors to "friend" or "like" or "follow" our pages. While that would not technically identify a follower as an A.A. member, the fact that a person had followed an A.A. page would be readily available to other users. This is at the very least a gray area where it concerns our Tradition Eleven principles of anonymity. It deserves more discussion because we don't have it right yet.

To avoid the seemingly unavoidable problem of unwanted affiliations and to avoid providing a platform where individual A.A. members are almost certain to break their anonymity by association, what if we turn to our friends to recommend us instead. I am an avid social media user in my work. I would love to see a tweet go by on my Twitter account from a group like the American Medical Association that said something like, "A.A. is still one of the most effective solutions to alcoholism available today," with a link provided to our

Letting Our Friends Recommend Us in the Digital Age (Con't)

www.aa.org website. The AMA is a highly respected medical association and our website is one place where we really can control our content. Or what if the National Council of Churches posted on their LinkedIn page something that described how many of their members still find A.A. to be a solution to alcoholism that is compatible with their spiritual beliefs, no matter what they believe – again, with a link to our website. That would be a strong recommendation from one of our friends.

To encourage and make full use of recommendations from our friends, I would like to see us direct some of our resources into paying for staff time at the General Service Office to support and coordinate these efforts the same way we do with other public information, bridging the gap, and cooperation with the professional community activities. We could use our committee system to consider how best to get the message out this way, while adhering to the principles found in Traditions Six and Eleven. Local groups and districts could be provided guidance and sample materials for encouraging information tweets, Facebook posts, and LinkedIn mentions by medical professionals, clergy, human resource professionals, and corrections officials – all of whom are already the focus of our public information efforts. It would be our classic public information activities transferred to a new platform. We could be innovative and do so without crossing into troublesome gray areas within our principles.

While I recommend we ask our Fellowship to pause any further use of social media platforms for posting A.A. content, I am not advocating we completely close off the exploration. But I don't think we quite have it right yet. There is much more to do to keep our social media work within the spirit of Traditions Six and Eleven. And we have not yet fully explored ways to encourage other organizations and associations – our long-time friends of A.A. – to once again become the source of positive and far reaching recommendations. Our Fellowship had its early growth based on the positive words that other professionals made public about us. We have an opportunity to recommit to an old success in a very innovative way, by asking others outside A.A. to use their presence on social media platforms where our own A.A. presence may be too problematic.

I hope you'll join in the discussion and debate of social media topics at all levels of our service structure. It is only a fully-participating, fully-informed group conscience that will ensure we have given Tradition Two a real chance.

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

DELTA Committee

Over the past couple years there have been a multitude of changes in the internal operations of your General Service office (GSO). Additionally, this past year was a continuation of a demonstration of the contributing groups to increase contributions. Sales of literature have also been on an upward trend. Our long term liabilities for old debt in the form of the discontinued pension plan are approaching being fully funded. Taking all of these variables into account, AAWS, Inc. felt it was appropriate to evaluate options with regard to possible year-over-year profits, and formed an ad hoc committee to evaluate changes.

In years past, literature prices were typically adjusted downward when a situation of this nature took place. At times, discounts on literature sales were also adjusted. Initially, these two variables were the primary concern of the ad hoc committee. However, the issue of shipping charges to various purchasers, including based on order size became another variable to consider. A few months after the formation of the committee, the realization that we continued to debate appropriate pricing based on language added yet another variable.

Add all these quantitative variables together, and then add qualitative variables such as who do we affect when we make changes, add a potential unified shopping cart for both AAWS and AA Grapevine, Inc., and the compound effect results in a wide array of potential cause-and-effect changes. Rather than be the literature price change/discount/shipping charge/language/AAWS-AAGV committee, we adopted the name of DELTA, as the term "delta" is used to signify change.

(Continued page 3)

DELTA Committee (Con't)

We are currently in the data collection stage. The committee, comprised of two AAWS directors including me as chair and Deborah A., a non-trustee director, plus Bob Slotterback, Director of Finance at GSO and David Rosen, Publications Director, are the primary committee members. We get additional support from other GSO staff and our general manager, Greg T. The sum of the participants brings together a wealth of experience as a host of variables are considered. Additionally, David Rosen is in the midst of a thorough audit of our supply chain, from manufacturing (printing) to warehousing and sales. Bob Slotterback has done a tremendous job of developing talent in the finance department at GSO, and we are going to be able to perform data mining to analyze short- and long-term trends and the cause-and-effect of prior changes that have taken place over the years.

One of our goals is to determine the most appropriate ways to respond to financial changes taking place. Most notable is the opportunity on the horizon that AA can become self-supporting through contributions, where the group support pays for all of the services being provided at the General Service Office. If the trend of increasing contributions continues, surely one of the biggest benefactors of changes should be the groups that provide their support. With the goal always in mind of helping the still suffering alcoholic, the ability for GSO to fine-tune its operations to improve services, price literature at a lower cost, putting the power of the purse ever-more into the hands of the group by an office operating based on group contributions is likely the most spiritually-correct business process change that could take place.

Besides data analysis, we are collecting information from people and entities that purchase literature from GSO. For example, the manager of St. Paul Intergroup provided a good deal of information for the committee on both what is the current literature ordering practice as well as what would be most beneficial for both intergroup and the groups and individuals. We will continue to reach out and always welcome information relevant to the topic.

We have a few months of work ahead of us on the DELTA Committee, and opportunities to improve the level of service to all groups abound. I will keep you informed in the coming months as we strive to be of service.

Yours in Service,
Thomas A.
WCR Trustee & AAWS Director

Guaranteed Promises Of A Continued Drinking Alcoholic

If we are casual with this phase of our development, we will be drunk before we are halfway through.

We are going to know a new imprisonment and a new misery.

We will relive the past and won't be able to shut the door on it.

We will comprehend the word CONFLICT and we will know PAIN.

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we'll sink even lower.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will deepen.

We will gain interest in selfish things and lose interest in our fellows.

Self esteem will slip away.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will SUCK.

Fear of people, and of economic insecurity will multiply.

We will intuitively know how to run from situations which never used to bother us.

We will suddenly realize that God would never have done to us and what we are doing to ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not! They are being fulfilled among those of us who are still drinking — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will ALWAYS materialize, IF WE DRINK FOR THEM.

Guaranteed

- Anonymous

PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN BOARD

“Living In The Solution!”



GOPHER STATE ROUNDUP XLV MAY 25, 26 and 27, 2018



Activities and Accommodations at:
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
Highway 100 & 494, Bloomington, MN

MEETINGS • SPEAKERS • FELLOWSHIP • HOSPITALITY ROOMS • A.A. FILMS

REGISTRATION – \$20.00 Contribution (ages 13 & over)

Visit www.gopherstateroundup.org for registration

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Register early for the best rate. Details at
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or directly with DoubleTree by Hilton at 800-222-8733.
Mention Gopher State Roundup for special rate.

Gopher State Roundup is a special A.A. conference
with Al-Anon participation.
Gopher State Roundup is self-supporting.
No contributions from A.A. groups are used to pay
for this event.
Expenses such as hotel fees, travel & lodging for
the speakers, and printed material are paid through
registration fees.
No baskets are passed during this event.

SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, MAY 25

7:30 PM Judy C., A.A., New York, NY
10:00 PM Scott F., A.A., Bristol, PA

SATURDAY, MAY 26

9:30 AM Diane A., Al-Anon, Nashville, TN
11:30 AM Sandra W., A.A., New York, NY
2:00 PM Pati S., Al-Anon, Fort Worth, TX
4:00 PM Jay S., A.A., Sedona, AZ (History)
7:30 PM Sheldon F., A.A., Las Vegas, NV
10:00 PM Amy D., A.A., Louisville, KY

SUNDAY, MAY 27

10:00 AM Jay S., A.A., Sedona, AZ

ASL interpretation is provided for the meetings listed above.
CDs are available in the Grand Ballroom foyer.

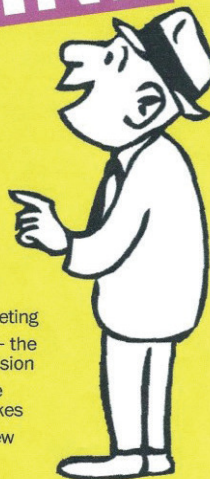
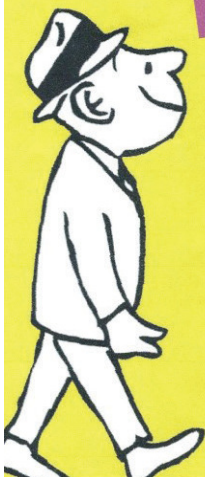
Minnesota District 5 Round Robin Schedule

- April 14, 2018 Madison
- April 28, 2018 Canby
- May 12, 2018 Ortonville/Big Stone
- June 9, 2018 Montevideo
- July 21, 2018 42nd Freedom Fest Montevideo
- August 11, 2018 Clara City
- September 8, 2018 Granite Falls
- October 13, 2018 Appleton

• Round Robin meals begin at 6 p.m. and meetings at 7:00 p.m. (Except for September at Granite Falls the meal is at 4 p.m. and the meeting is at 5 p.m.)
• District 5 GSR Meetings are held once each quarter on Monday, 7 p.m. at Appleton Alano Club (January 8, April 2, July 2, and October 1). For updated information check out the District 5 website at <http://mndist5aa.wix.com/mndist5aa>

SHARE YOUR LOVE...

BECOME A GRAPEVINE REP!



IN THIS ROLE, YOU WILL:

- Announce the latest issue at your meeting
- Talk about the magazine's content – the stories make great topics for discussion
- Encourage your group to participate by sending in stories, art work or jokes
- Spread the word about Grapevine's new services and products

HOW TO GET STARTED:

- Offer to be of service - let your home group know that you are interested.
- Sign up on our website at www.aagrapevine.org/GVR
- You will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA AND TO STAY SOBER!

Anonymity is so FRAGILE, you can break it with one finger!

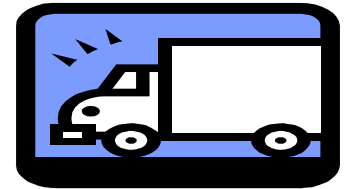
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St. Paul Intergroup *Individual Contribution* Enrollment Form

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).

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