



## **Step 9: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**

*Below we have a few words on Step Nine by the Reverend Samuel Shoemaker, a friend of A.A. co-founder Bill W. and an early friend of A.A. Bill W. had this to say about Rev. Shoemaker:*

“It was from him that Dr. Bob and I in the beginning had absorbed most of the principles that were afterward embodied in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, steps that express the heart of A.A.’s way of life. Dr. Silkworth gave us the needed knowledge of our illness, but Sam Shoemaker had given us the concrete knowledge of what we could do about it. One showed us the mysteries of the lock that held us in prison; the other passed on the spiritual keys by which we were liberated.”

*From A.A. Comes of Age, pages 38-39, reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services.*

We must be willing to be absolutely honest, but indiscriminate “absolute honesty” would blow the roof off many a house and destroy entirely some human relations. We must hold nothing back through deceit or pride; we may need to hold something back by discretion and consideration of others. Take a thing like infidelity in marriage. Sometimes, this must be disclosed to a wife or husband in all candor. Sometimes, as is the case of someone with a bad heart, or terribly sensitive or innocent nature, “telling all” may be almost a self-indulgence for us. The people we have hurt may be dead, in which case prayer to God to let them know our repentance may be all we can do. Or there may be facts in the situation which would help clear the relation, but they involve telling what we know about someone else’s sins. This is allowable under only the rarest circumstances; usually, it spreads the evil and does more harm than good. If, in order to clear our own souls, we must damage the reputation of another, it is an extremely dubious practice.

Those who deal much with human souls—priests, psychiatrists, lay folk like A.A.’s—must learn the secret of a tight lip, or we shall do damage and gain the name of gossips, which will shut off people’s confidence from us. Such actions are usually those of the Pharisee type, the good and righteous type. But they are sometimes those of the changed Prodigal also—and nothing is worse than the fury of a Prodigal turned Pharisee. What is made known in confidence should be kept in confidence until or unless the person involved gives us permission to speak of it.

*From The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 2, page 131-132, reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

### **NOTICE: BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Board member nominations will be accepted in October, at the Intergroup Representatives’ Meeting or at the office. The election will be held at the November 20th Representatives’ Meeting. Positions begin in January, 2008. Interested members are encouraged to attend the Representatives’ meetings from now through December.

### **St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®**

## **Tradition Nine: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve.**

[ . . . ] in “action by groups,” we find that we do need some degree of organization. If everybody thinks somebody else is going to make the coffee, what’s the result? No coffee! To avoid such a disaster, one or more members agree to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-brewers to trustees on the General Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming responsibility—*not* taking on authority. (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to members of the group; Intergroup committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups in treatment facilities and correctional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegates and committees, to all groups and members everywhere.

In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine company plans and policy. Our board of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference—but as individuals, with one vote apiece. In industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our G.S.O. is just a clearinghouse of A.A. information, offering *suggestions* based on experiences reported to it by groups.

And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miraculously does work! One reason may be that Tradition Five applies to each A.A. committee and board as directly as it does to each A.A. group. By cleaving to this “one primary purpose” in all its activities, the Fellowship retains “spiritual simplicity.” To diffuse that purpose, to embroil A.A. in issues apart from its true concern, would create dangerous complications.

-Reprinted from the pamphlet, *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*,  
with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

## **ASL FUND: LEGEND OR MYTH? BY CHARLIE M.**

We may never know! In recent months sightings of the ever elusive ASL Fund have been reported in the downtown area of Saint Paul, usually Sunday night around 8:00 PM. Eye witness accounts are as varied as they are vague, but one thing is certain. This seldom seen and never heard creature may soon be extinct. In fact I believe it may be an endangered species. Not much is known about the habitat, mating rituals, or feeding habits of this exotic animal, however it has been known to feed on personal contributions, group contributions, and another rare and seldom seen creature known simply as The Green Can. If these things are in fact all that is in it’s diet it will surely cease to exist.

Since it first migrated to this region of sobriety the contributions which sustain it have been and continue to be less than it’s operating cost, to make a long story short. It costs more to run this program than people have been donating. Help save the ASL Fund, with your personal contribution, group contribution, and or start a green can in your home group today. For more information email me at [CharlesGMatthews@msn.com](mailto:CharlesGMatthews@msn.com). Make checks payable to ASL Fund, PO Box 131831, Roseville, MN. 5513-0020 Thank you to all of you who’ve helped out with your support in the past.

### **2007 Steering Board**

<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Jeff T.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>Tom S.</b>
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Lesli D.</b>
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Mary Jo N.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2007:</u></b>	<b>Alfred K. and Roxi S.</b>
<b><u>Member at Large 2008:</u></b>	<b>Jeff H. and Steve B.</b>
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>Marty M.</b>
<b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>	<b>Tom N.</b>

### **Office Calls in July**

Meeting information	237
Inventory hours	29
12th step calls	16
Temporary sponsor	10
Speaker request	12
Special events	4
Outside issues	42
Info for Professionals	2
Administrative	86
Other	39
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>477</b>
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>22.7</b>
Visitors	155


\*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not include calls taken during Night Owl shifts.

### Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2007

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)
- II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Mary Jo N.
- III. June 19<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Mary Jo. June contributions \$2671, (\$2185 of which was from 30 Groups – Thank you!); June Sales \$5811. Outside literature <\$878> due to missing inventory from Gopher State. See Treasurer's Report handed out at meeting for more details.
- V. **Office Report** -- Tom N. A) New Grapevine publication "In Our Own Words", young peoples stories – pick it up at the office; B) "What is an AA Group" pamphlet handed out at meeting; C) The new Yellowbook ad is out (copies handed out).
- VI. **Website Report** – Jonathan L.. Check out the new re-design (link is on homepage) and get feedback to Jonathan ([webservant@aastpaul.org](mailto:webservant@aastpaul.org)). Kudos to Jonathan from Suzanne for our website – it's quite navigable, informational, and very user-friendly. Jonathan also would like any 'web-techie-graphics' person to aid him in the site maintenance.
- VII. **Outreach Program** – Alfred K. Found an MIA in Stacey; Checking out Burnsville meetings. Tip to members—if you find an MIA, please let Intergroup know so we can follow up with them. Email Alfred at [outreach@aastpaul.org](mailto:outreach@aastpaul.org).
- VIII. **Night Owl Report** – Diane. Handed out 'Open Shift' listing; Orientation trainer position is open – contact Diane before 9/1 if interested. We need VOLUNTEERS! Marty discussed having a NiteOwl workshop; Suzanne iterated: "...When a hand reaches out for help, the hand of AA should be there...". Please consider volunteering – it's just plain good 'sobriety insurance'?
- IX. **Upcoming Events**.
- Ice Cream Social Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom S. passed around volunteer sign-up sheets. Come one, come all, to help Intergroup recognize our local AA Old-Timers, those folks with 25+ Years of sobriety.
- X. **Old Business**.
- At Large position: Welcome to Steve B., our new delegate!
  - By-Laws Committee: Marty M. A) Draft is complete and being legally reviewed; hope to have for Board/Rep meeting presentation at August meeting. After presentation, these by-laws will be voted on at the next Rep's meeting and requires 2/3 vote to pass. B) Current by-laws state that, to be nominated for l'Group Steering Committee, a rep must have attended 6 Rep meetings in the prior calendar year to be eligible. C) Open Positions for November elections: 2 At-Large Delegates, Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate Chair.
- XI. **New Business**. None.
- XII. **Group Announcements or Concerns**. Uptown picnic on 9/18/07, Maplewood picnic 7/28 – both are on website ([www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)). Tom N, l'grp office stated that Step / Tradition essays from group members are always welcome for Lifeline publications—get to Tom by 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month. Newcomer Packets: Joe asked about the 'non-drinker' pamphlet – groups can take this out or not as their group conscience dictates. The packets can be 'custom-made' – just ask Tom N. at office.
- XIII. **Concept Review** (VII) -- Thanks to Lee B. for a great presentation! Suzanne volunteered for August, Concept VIII.
- XIV. **Mock Rep Report**. Thanks, Jon C. for tonight's report! Mark K. volunteered for August.
- XV. Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

#### Groups & Officers in Attendance:

Tom S-Board	Tom N – IG Office/Board	Duane S-St. Joe's	Jon C., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition
Dan B-Uptown	Joe S.-Happy, Joyous, Free	Lee B.-Como BB	Christine P-Mplwd Alano
Alfred K-Board	Ed M - Main Idea	Mark K & Bill C -Uptown	Brooklyn (John)– W End
Roxi S., Jeff H -Board	Shelly S - Womens 12x12	Kristin Y – Basic Text	Lisa L-No Time like Present
Jan B-Mon Mac/Plymouth	Steve B-Board	Suzanne-Mendota Sat 10am	Val L – Back to Basic
David C -Students of Life	Richard U. - Midway	Jeff T – Board	Lesli D – Board
Marty M-Board	Jonathan L - Webservant	Claire G-WomensBasicTxt	Greg M - OMD
Mary Jo N-Treasurer	Diane E & Patti S -NiteOwl Coord	Donald B-Main Idea	Peggy B – District 19

<p><b>7th Tradition</b> <b><u>Suggestions for Groups</u></b></p> <p>"Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."</p> <p>Your group can make an informed decision regarding contributions with information from A.A. World Services. The information below is a suggestion taken from the pamphlet: "Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix."</p> <p><b>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u></b> Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p><b>30% <u>General Service Office</u></b> P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p><b>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u></b> Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p><b>10% <u>District Committee</u></b></p> <p>Ramsey County: District 8 P.O. Box 2267 St. Paul, MN 55102</p> <p>Dakota County: District 19 P.O. Box 1466 Burnsville, MN 55337</p> <p>Washington County: District 15 P.O. Box 181 Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p> <p>SE Ramsey County: District 26 P.O. Box 75980 St. Paul, MN 55175</p>	<p><b>BE A NIGHT OWL !!</b></p> <p>Night Owls are often the first AA contact for the newcomer! A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer Intergroup phones after hours. Some shifts can be done in the office; all can be done from home. The commitment can be filled by an individual or a group. <b>If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: <a href="http://www.aastpaul.org">www.aastpaul.org</a></b></p> <p><b><u>District Meetings</u></b></p> <p><b>District 8 (Ramsey Co.)</b> Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203 Roseville <u>3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</u></p> <p><b>District 15 (Wash. Co.)</b> Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo <u>4th Mon., 7:00 PM</u></p> <p><b>District 19 (Dakota Co.)</b> Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail <u>2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</u></p> <p><b>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)</b> 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul <u>2nd Fri., 6:00 PM</u> <a href="http://www.district26-area36.org">www.district26-area36.org</a></p> <p><b>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during July!</b></p> <p>Andy, Donald B., Eliot, Frank D., Hope, Jack R., Jack R., Jerry, John F., Kevin G., Kristin, Lynette, Mark W., Mary, Michelle M., Rhonda, Russ,  Ryan B.</p> <p><b>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</b></p>	<p><b><u>INTERGROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JULY</u></b></p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 43 Total Group Contributions: \$5,948.82 Number of Faithful Fivers: 19 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$308.00</p> <p><b>"Thanks!" to the groups that contributed in July:</b></p> <p>Amigo's III Apple Valley Big Book Apple Valley Friday Night As Bill Sees It Basic Text Women's Group Book of Hope Burnsville Eagan Savage Como Park Big Book Study Complete Defeat Dakota Alano Friday PM Day By Dei Defogged Men's Group East Side, Squad 6 Fireside Women's Groups Fresh Air AA Grover's AA Happy Hour 12 &amp; 12 Happy Joyous &amp; Free Highland Park AA Live &amp; Let Live Main Idea Men's Problems &amp; Solutions Midway AA North Hamline AA Oakdale Transfiguration AA Peace &amp; Serenity AA Ridge Runners II Ridge Runners III River Rats Roseville Wednesday Night AA Shoreview 12&amp;12 Shoreview Big Book Plus Short Stories AA Spiritual Traditions Group St. John's AA Little Canada St. Luke Sat. Men's AA St. Paul Park AA St. Stephen's Tuesday AA Steps to Freedom Thurs. Night Lake Elmo AA Uptown AA Weekend Jumpstart II White Bear Groups</p>
<p><b><u>The Lifeline: Purpose Statement</u></b></p> <p><i>The Lifeline</i> is a monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for 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. (Exception: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.; The A.A. Preamble is reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) We welcome articles of opinion or descriptions of personal experience, which should be sent to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #407, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and contents that may violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 2nd of the preceding month.</p>		

# ST. PAUL AA INTERGROUP UPCOMING EVENTS!!

<p>17th Annual  <b>HEARTLAND ROUND-UP</b>            September 7 - 9, 2007            Park Rapids, MN            Info 218-573-3520      redg@wcta.net</p>	<p>St. Paul Intergroup  <b>Old-Timers Recognition</b>            and  <b>Ice Cream Social</b>            Saturday, September 15, 2007            Lutheran Church of the Redeemer            285 N Dale St., one block south of I-94.</p>
<p><b>North Dakota State Round-Up</b>            September 28 - 30, 2007            Grand Forks, ND            Contact Roy L. 701-740-9224</p>	<p><b>SOUTHERN MINNESOTA            AREA ASSEMBLY</b>    <b>October 13, 2007</b>            Holiday Inn—Austin, MN            9:00am—5:00pm</p>
<p>19th Annual  <b>Hiawathaland Get-Together</b>            October 19 - 21, 2007            Austin, MN — Holiday Inn            POB 5792, Rochester, MN 55903</p>	<p>25th Annual  <b>St. Cloud Roundup</b>            "25 Years Of Carrying This Message"            St. Cloud Civic Center—10 Fourth Ave S            Info: 320-309-8715 or 320-237-3452  <b>Oct 26-28, 2007</b></p>

## The Twelve Concepts: Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure—and the source of our leadership—is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as a whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.'s group conscience—and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area's candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. "Who are best qualified people?" should be the thought of all.

-Reprinted from the pamphlet, *The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*,  
 with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

### Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

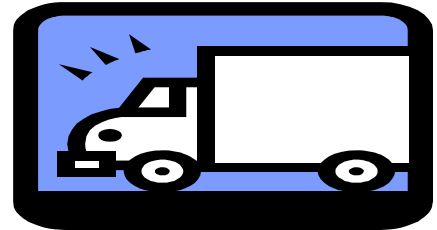
The September Representatives' meeting will be held September 18, 7:30 pm,  
 at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.  
 The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

St. Paul Area Intergroup  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. W., Suite #407  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit No. 7451

Please let us know one month ahead of time if your address changes. It saves us the cost of return postage and enables you to get each issue of the *Lifeline*. Our mailing permit does not provide for mail forwarding. Thank you!



## St. Paul Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

Faithful Fivers contribute five dollars to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry our life-saving message. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the *Lifeline*. You may also contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and a check to:**

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W. #407, St. Paul MN 55104