



STEP SEVEN: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

The following is taken from a July 1995 Grapevine interview with Dr. Paul O., the author of "Acceptance Was The Answer" in the fourth edition of the Big Book, and formerly know as the story "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," when it was initially published in the Third Edition.

GRAPEVINE: Is there a tool or slogan or a Step that is particularly useful to you right now?

DR. PAUL: Pretty much every morning, before I get out of bed, I say the Serenity Prayer, the Third Step prayer, and the Seventh Step prayer. Then Max and I repeat those prayers along with other prayers and meditations at breakfast. And I say those three prayers repeatedly throughout the day.

I grew up thinking that I had to perfect my personality, then I got into AA and AA said, no, that isn't the way we do it: only God can remove our defects. I was amazed to find that I couldn't be a better person simply by trying harder!

What I've done with a number of problems—like fear and depression and insomnia—is to treat them as defects of character, because they certainly affect my personality adversely. With depression, I've never taken any antidepressants. Instead, with any defect I want to get rid of, I become willing to have it removed, and then ask God to remove it, then act like it has. Now, I know God has a loophole that says he'll remove it unless it's useful to you or to my fellows. So I tell him I'd like my defect removed completely, but he can sleep on it, and in the morning he can give me the amount he wants me to have, and I'll accept it as a gift from him. I'll take whatever he gives me. I've never done that when he hasn't removed a great deal of my defects, but I've never done it when he has permanently and totally removed any defects. But the result is that I no longer fight myself for having it.

GRAPEVINE: That's a helpful way of seeing things, It makes defects into gifts.

DR. PAUL: That's right. And it's the Rule Sixty-two business (see *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 149). It's like Father Terry always says, "Be friendly with your defects." In fact some poet said, "Hug your demon, otherwise it will bite you in the ass." Poets can talk like that.

Excerpt reprinted from *The Best of the Grapevine, Volume Three*, pgs. 129-30, with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.



Save the Date!
Saturday, September 20th, 1pm
St. Paul Intergroup Ice Cream Social
and Old-timers' Recognition!!!
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103



St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: lifeline@aastpaul.org

Fax: 651-290-0209

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday — 9 AM to 6 PM; Tuesday: 9 AM to 8 PM

1600 University Avenue W. Suite 407 St. Paul MN 55104

The Twelve Traditions: Tradition Seven

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

The Meaning of Money: It's about participation, not cash.

While studying the Seventh Tradition, I learned that self-support is more than money in the basket. It's the participation by individual members within the group as well as group participation by elected members in local service work and in AA as a whole. I found out that he who pays the bills calls the shots. At first, the most important thing to me was that our group was autonomous and made all our own decisions. As my mind cleared, I realized that with freedom there is responsibility, and that if the group didn't pay its way, no one would.

The Seventh Tradition became very important to me; it meant that I could belong. I could be a small part of a great whole, something I had never been before. It also meant that I could earn a living and start making financial amends in order to pay back the many debts that had built up through the years. It meant that I had a chance to be free one day.

I became involved in my home group and did service with our local Hospitals and Institutions Committee. I went to places I'd never dreamed of going to help carry a message of hope to the hopeless. The history of Alcoholics Anonymous is very important to me, as did serving this sober group of drunks that had given me life. I started to put Alcoholics Anonymous in front of my own wants and needs.

In addition to giving much of my time, as I was able to secure better jobs I began to put more money in the basket at meetings. Sometimes, I was rather showy in my contribution. However, maturing through service and living within the principles embodied within the last three Steps, I realized that if the Seventh Tradition were just about money, the haves could, and certainly would, support the have-nots. Then we would likely become a society wracked with perilous wealth and power, and the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous would not be heard through group participation but only through those who, in Bill's words, "paid the freight." The Fellowship had to be supported through a broad base of groups, and the group had to be supported through a broad base of individuals. Therefore, I should give my fair share but not more.

— Jim M., Shingletown, CA

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The Twelve Concepts: Concept Seven

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Boards are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the conference charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

"The practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members;" and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. "theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need."

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

2008 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Diane E.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Steve B. & Jeff H.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Mark K. & Lisa L.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in May

Meeting information	211
Inventory/hours	27
12th step calls	7
Temporary sponsor	19
Speaker request	15
Special events	4
Outside issues	34
Info For Professionals	6
Administrative	127
Other	53
Total Calls	503
Daily average	22.9
Visitors	176

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, May 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)

The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Mary Jo N.

April minutes were approved and accepted. 1 correction: Steve B. attended the meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Diane E. May Contributions \$3141– 35% of Income. Contributions for May were above the budgeted amount for the month and year-to-date. This a trend we have seen continuously throughout the year. THANKS TO ALL. Sales for May were greatly above budget for the month and year to date. May Sales \$5872– 65% of Income. Group contributions \$2488.

Office Report -- Tom N. absent; No report.

Website Report – Jonathan absent. No report.

Outreach Program – Lee B has resigned; Jeff C. volunteered to chair this committee.

Night Owl Report – Patti M. Patty S. has resigned; Patti M & Cathy B are new co-chairs. Committee meeting is 6/3/08. Workshop/Orientation Saturday 6/28 10-Noon at this location – please come!! We need more people for backup and have some open shifts available.

Intergroup Events.

- Intergroup Open House will be held Saturday, June 21st; Flyers distributed.

Old Business. A) By-Laws Committee – No report; still awaiting edits and legal review.

New Business. None

Delegate's Report -- Scott A., our Area 36 Delegate reported on the General Service Conference in New York late April. It was a great overview of how our service structure works and provided us all with a picture of the general service office. Thanks, Scott, for your presentation and your commitment to keeping AA alive and well!!

Closed with the Responsibility Statement and Lord's Prayer.

Attendance

Angela S-Midway	Diane E-Board Treasurer	Jon C-3rd Edition	Patti M-Night Owl Co-coord
Barb H-Highland #11	Ellen H-Mahtomedi 12x12/ Amigos III	Julie M-Basic Txt	Patty S-Night Owl Past Chair
Betsy-Happy, Joyous & Free	Jeff C-Summit Hill	Lesli D-Board Secretary	Steve B-Board At-Large
Bill S-Intergroup Volunteer	Jeff H-Board At-Large	Mary Jo N-Board Alt Chair	Tom C - Shoreview 12x12
Cathy B-Night Owl Co-coord	Jeff T-Board Advisor	Mickey M-West End	Tony J - Pocketing Our Pride
	Tom N - Office Manager	Tom S - Board Chair	Wendy B - Women's Basic Text

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June17th. Same place, same time (7:30 PM)

<p>7th Tradition Suggestions for Groups</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 Conference-approved pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality mix.”</p> <p>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u> Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p>30% <u>General Service Office</u> P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u> Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p>10% <u>District Committee</u></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><i>BE A NIGHT OWL !!</i></p> <p>Night Owls are often the first A.A. 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. If you can help, call the office or go to our website: www.aastpaul.org</p> <p><u>District Meetings</u></p> <p>District 8 (Ramsey Co.) Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville 3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</p> <p>District 15 (Wash. Co.) Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo 4th Mon., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 19 (Dakota Co.) Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail 2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</p> <p>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.) 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul 2nd Fri., 6:00 PM www.district26-area36.org</p> <p>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during May!</p> <p>Amy, Andie L., Andrew, Anthony M., Barb W., Bob, Bob M., Carolyn, Chris C, Dan, Derrick, Eliot, Frank, Frank D., Gretchen A., Holli, Hope, Jack, Jack R., Jacque, Jeff, Julie, Markien, Maureen, Michelle P., Mike A, Mike B, Mike R, Rob, Stan, Susan</p> <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p> 	<p>INTERGROUP INCOME FOR MAY</p> <p>Number of Group Contributions: 20 Total Group Contributions:\$1,443.06 Number of Faithful Fivers: 21 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$445.50</p> <p><i>“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in May:</i></p> <p>Amigo's III As Bill W. Sees It Dakota Alano Sat. As Bill Dakota Alano Wed. Roosters East Side Groups Forest Lake 12 & 12 Highland Park Groups Live & Let Live Group Meeting of the Waters Midway Groups Pages of Wisdom BB Ridge Runners III Group Sisters of Serenity St. Stephen's Tuesday Group Stillwater Wed. Step Group TGIF Macalester The Firing Line Group Third Tradition Northfeld Unity Service Recovery Eagan Uptown Groups</p>
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The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline 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 13th of the preceding month (i.e., submit a Tenth Step essay by the ninth month, September.)

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

Maplewood Alano Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 26th
 Battle Creek Park - Main Pavilion
 Speaker Paul G. at 11am

Minneapolis Intergroup Summer Open House

Saturday, August 2nd, 9am to 1pm
 Map & directions: www.aaminneapolis.org
 More info: 952-922-0880

Cornhusker Roundup XXXI

August 14th - 17th
 Holiday Inn, Omaha, Nebraska
www.AA-Cornhusker.org

Hiawathaland Get-Together

August 29—31st
 Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, MN
h-land.org

18th Annual HEARTLAND ROUND-UP

September 5 - 7
 Park Rapids, MN
www.heartlandroundup.com

Fiftieth Southern Minnesota Roundup

“There is a Solution”
 September 5 - 7
 Best Western Hotel, North Mankato, MN
area36.org/events.html

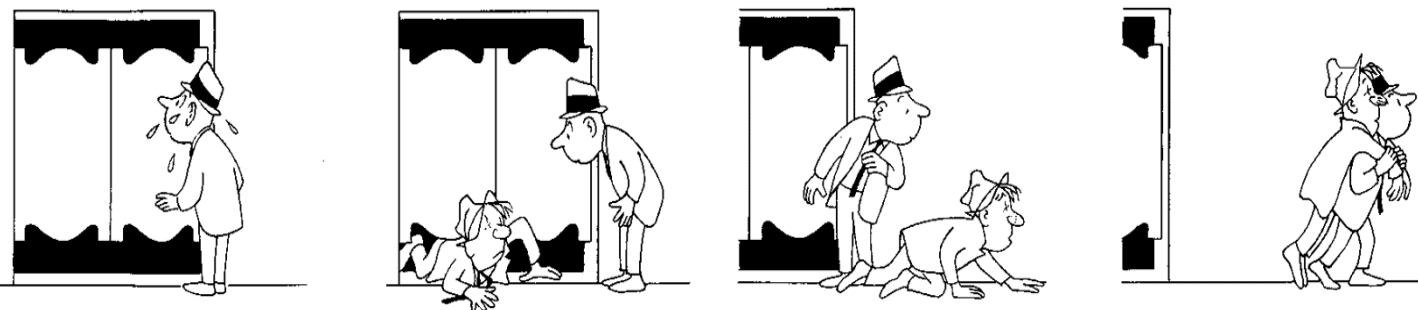
Dear Bill W.,

Now that I'm trying to be humble and honest, I find there are times when some one acts like I used to act - aggressive and blaming. One person continually brings up an amends I've already made, and tries to use it against me. How should I handle these relationships?

— An Anonymous Drunk

“We should be sensible, tactful, considerate and humble without being servile or scraping. As God's people we stand on our feet; we don't crawl before anyone.”

From the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 83.



Cartoon reprinted by permission from the August, 1969 A.A. Grapevine.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

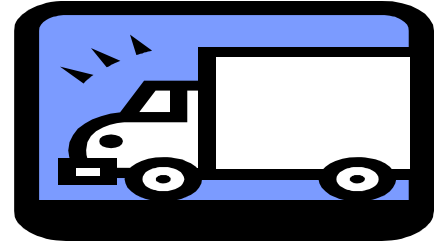
The July Representatives' meeting will be held July 15th, 7:30 pm,
 at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
 The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

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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 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

I would like to receive the *Lifeline* every month by email, not postal mail. My email address is:

(please print clearly) _____