



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

The first thought that comes to mind with this Step is the number of times that I have heard the word “whenever” substituted for “wherever.” It was drilled into me by my sponsor that “whenever” means “at some time”; whereas “wherever” means in any place, any circumstance. My understanding then is that I do not get to pick a time, I have to be ready if the circumstances present themselves. That might mean seeing someone at a festive event, at a meeting or in any setting. Having made my list, having become willing to make amends, now I trust that my God will place these people in my life, and/or make it very simple for me to arrange a meeting. Sometimes it appears to me that I am running against a brick wall in attempting something. At that time, it becomes apparent to me that I am forcing an issue, and that I need to step back and review my course of action. It might be that it is an inappropriate time for the other person without my even knowing about it.

My reluctance about this step stemmed from the idea that I was giving “my” money to these people. My sponsor assured me that I was returning “their” monies. Just to mention a miracle with this step: I owed approximately \$10,000 to a hospital, and of course was embarrassed to be seen there. I finally went to the business manager – only to find that he was a member of Al-Anon – and made payment arrangements. I was making the payments as agreed, when two year later, a business friend called to tell me that his brother in law was in that very hospital, having driven his car into a telephone pole. The friend told me that there were a lot of people attempting to get Fred into a treatment program, but Fred had lost his job, and had no insurance or extra money. I was able to walk in the front door of that hospital, visit with Fred, “loan” him my Big Book with the admonition that after he read it, if he didn’t want anything to do with me/us, that he was to give it back. He stated many times over the years that he was not about to give that Big Book back just out of spite, so he attended meetings with me — now sober since October 18th, 1981. That would not have been possible without Step Nine.

There have been several other incidents like that in my life experiences with this Step. So, I would recommend giving it a try, and see if those promises on page 83 & 84 of the Big Book will come true in your life.

Tom McM.
Osseo, MN, Big Book Study

Looking for an opportunity to be of service to Saint Paul Intergroup?
Please consider joining our Board of Directors

Elections will be held Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 - 7:30PM Reps Meeting
Nominations will be taken at the Tuesday, October 18th - 7:30PM Reps Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran In-The-Midway Church, 436 Roy Street, Saint Paul, MN 55104

Five positions are available: Alternate-Chair (3yr commitment), Alt. Treasurer (2yr), Secretary (1yr), and two At-Large Members (2yr).

Please visit www.aastpaul.org, or call the Intergroup office (651) 227-5502 to learn more about these service opportunities. Applicants are asked to furnish a Service Resume - email: manager@aastpaul.org

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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

1600 University Avenue, W. Suite 214, St. Paul MN 55104

TRADITION NINE: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

“How does an organization operate if it is not ‘organized’?” The truth lies in the fact that this is a “Fellowship”, and has no rules, only time-honored and time-learned points of experience. We have no bosses, as evidenced by the wide variety of split meetings. All that is needed to start a new meeting is a coffee pot and a resentment.

The Fellowship does need and want some sort of clearing house for all members. Some type of uniformity is the only thing that has held us together over all these years. Therefore we have not only the Intergroup offices, but the General Service Office to keep groups as well-informed of the happenings throughout the world of A.A., as they want to be. Remember that the groups have the autonomy to act on their own as long as they do not adversely affect other groups or A.A. as a whole.

The outreach of A.A. has necessitated doing our utmost to keep the local groups informed, so that we now have the Districts and Areas to disseminate information and assist new and sometimes long-time groups with growing and/or other pains. Still we need the tables and chairs set up, the coffee made, monies collected and counted, bills paid, etc., so responsibility is set up for those positions. The group, however, holds direct power over those appointed, and either a vote or a drink demands removal.

As always, if I am selected for a position, do I follow the dictates of the group, or my own agenda? I must be humble and mature enough to listen to all the group, not just my clique. Then it is just as important to recognize the stepping down process, allowing for rotation so that others may experience the joys of being a “part of”, not “apart from”. The humility comes in when allowing others to do their part, and then being willing to share when called upon for your own experience, strength and hope. Here indeed is the need for the ‘elder statesman’, not the ‘bleeding deacon’. Sometimes I wonder which test I would pass. I do recognize that at times, I am either or both.

Tom McM., Osseo, MN, Big Book Study

CONCEPT NINE: 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.

We just found out in Tradition Nine that we ought never be organized, however, there is the definite need for “servant leaders”. First we must decide what leaders are needed for the Group, District or Area, and then determine a way to find, elect and help those selected. The biggest caution here is not to put someone in a position as it would be good for them. A.A. is not in the business of making someone feel better or assist them by giving them a position because it would be good for that individual.

If offered the opportunity to serve, do I provide a positive leadership example? The group is the main stream of our fellowship, and that link is served by the GSR (Group Service Representative). These servant leaders elect District and Area servants and ultimately the Trustees by their vote. This is an important position, and should not be ‘handed’ to someone without proper credentials. No business, society or fellowship will be able to function without able leadership at all levels. The good servant leader at any level is one that is able to put principles before personalities, and thus have the group want to back and help him or her in this work. That same good leader recognizes that plans or ideas can come from anybody, and so our leader needs to set aside any bias and listen, but also give credit when due to the source. We want our leaders to act for us, but never be our boss.

The best service leader cannot function well in a poorly designed structure – and weak leadership cannot function at all, even in the best of structures.

Tom McM., Osseo, MN, Big Book Study

2011 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	John D.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Denise A.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Don N.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Darrell B.
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	Cedar H.
<u>Members at Large 2012:</u>	Chris S. & Wanda B.
<u>Members at Large 2011:</u>	Jes N. & Charlie S.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Julie M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in July*

Meeting information	168
Inventory/hours	32
12th Step calls	19
Temporary sponsor	28
Speaker request	23
Special events	1
Outside issues	26
Info for professionals	2
Administrative	85
Other	42
Total Calls	426
Daily average	20.3
Visitors	203

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

St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, July 19th, 2011

- I. Opened with the Serenity Prayer and Introductions. Darrell presented Intergroup's Primary Purpose.
- II. Last month's Minutes approved (motion by John, seconded by Toni).
- III. Treasurer's Report – Darrell B. discussed his written report. Contributions are down, but otherwise the budget is healthy. Contact Darrell with questions or concerns at treasurer@aastpaul.org.
- IV. The Office Report – Reiterating the Treasurer's concerns over contributions being down significantly for the first half of the year, Tom N. encouraged the Reps to take copies of the Self Support/7th Tradition pamphlet, the AA Treasurer pamphlet and the flyer on inflation which he brought to the meeting. Call the Office for information regarding service opportunities.
- V. The Website Report – Groups are encouraged to contact Jonathan (webservant@aastpaul.org) or the Office for AA-related events which can be added. Guidelines are available on site.
- VI. Outreach Program – Chris (coordinator) reports there's been little interest in this important service opportunity; please contact him or the Office for information.
- VII. Night Owl Program – Contact Leslie (coordinator) or the Office for current openings.
- VIII. Upcoming Intergroup Events:
 - a) Ice Cream Social/Old Timers @ the Recovery Church – Sat, Aug 6th @ 1-3:30PM – Wanda, Chair.
 - b) Fall Workshop – Sat., October 8th – Charlie, Chair.
- IX. Old Business: Intergroup Open House – Chris (Chair) reported approximately 180 attended and the costs were about \$600.
- X. New Business:
 - a. The costs of having St. Paul Intergroup's 24-hour phone listed in The Dex directory, The Yellow Book and City Pages are about \$3,600 yearly. The Reps were asked to get feedback from their groups regarding the need for this expense as well as any other ideas to help reduce Intergroup's expenses.
 - b. Frank N. was welcomed as the new part-time employee in the Office.
- XI. Cedar presented the Concept Review (Concepts 6 & 7); volunteers for the Concept Review (Concept 8) should contact the Office; Terri is to present the Grapevine Report next month.
- XII. Scott presented the Mock Rep Report and Paul volunteered for next month.
- XIII. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 16, 2011 (7:30PM) BETHLEHEM CHURCH

Attendance:

John, Board Chair	Denise, Alt Chair	Darrell, Treasurer	Cedar, Alt Treasurer	Tom, Office Manager	Don N, Secretary
Wanda, Member @ Large	Charlie, Member @ Large	Chris, Member @ Large	Jonathan, Web Servant	Ryan, Students of Life	Jordan, MNYPAA
Susan M, Como BB	Scott, NW Alano Sq. 1	Paul, Uptown AA	Beth, Midway Groups	John, Happy, Joyous, Free	Travis, St. Paul, Speakr Mtg
Joe, SOS	Bill, SOS	Adrienne B, Maplewood AA	Peggy, Pathway	Sharon, Pocket- ing Our Pride	Jason, OMD
Toni, Stillwater Morning	Mitchell, Probs/ Solutions	Frank, p/time Office	Chuck, Rosemount	Joe, Defogged Mens Group	Tom S, Senior Recovery
Harry, Main Idea	Don D, 3 rd Ed. BB	Kevin, Summit Group	Doug M, Hole in the Donut	Jenni, New Brighton BB	Roxi, West End AA
Matt, Outright Mental Defectves					

**7th Tradition
Suggestions for Groups**

“Every 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
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. #214
St. Paul, MN 55104

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 2267
St. Paul, MN 55102

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

JULY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 50
Total Group Contributions: \$5445
Number of Faithful Fivers: 14
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$136



District Meetings

District 8 (Ramsey Co.)
Fairview Community Center
1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, 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
2nd Wed., 7:00 PM

District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)
1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul
2nd Fri., 6:00 PM
www.district26-area36.org

**Thanks to all the super
volunteers who helped in the
Office during July!**

Adam, Andy, Bill, Bud, Car, Chris, Dean, Erin, Frances, Greg B, Gabriella, Henry, Jack, Jeanette, John, Kevin, Mark, Mike, O'Darius, Phil, Raquel, Rich, Sara, Seth, Suzanne, Travis, Tyler, Wendy, and Xavier.

*Thanks to all the
Night Owl
volunteers and
groups as well!*



**Thanks to the groups that
contributed in July!!**

- Basic Text Women's Group
- Burnsville - Primary Purpose
- Cerenity Group Thursday 10AM
- Como Park Big Book
- Dakota Alano Sat. AM
- Dakota Alano Wed AM Roosters
- Defogged Men's Group
- Eagan Burnsville Savage - Sat Speaker
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Friday 12x12 By the Book
- Gratitude in Action
- Happy Hour 12 & 12
- Happy Joyous and Free
- Highland Park Groups
- Highway 96er's Group
- Hole in the Donut Group
- Hugo Group
- Inver Grove Heights Club 84
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Live and Let Live
- Mahtomedi Tuesday Step
- Maplewood Groups
- Midway Groups
- New Brighton Alano Sq 14 BB
- North Branch Thursday Night
- North Hamline
- Pages of Wisdom BB
- Ridge Runners II Sat 830 AM
- Roll of Nickels
- Roseville Wed Night
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- Shoreview Big Book Plus
- St. Anthony Park Group Mon PM
- Students of Life
- Third Edition Group
- This Simple Program
- Twelve Steppers - Arlington Hills
- Uptown Club
- Vadnais Heights Groups
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- We Care Groups
- Weekend Jumpstart II
- White Bear Lake
- Women's 12 x 12 Study Monday
- Woodbury Serenity Sisters

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

The Lifeline is the 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.) 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 content that might 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!!

**West Central Regional Forum
with the A.A. General Service Board**
September 9th — 11th
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
Davenport, Iowa

21st Annual
Heartland Round-Up
Park Rapids, MN
September 9 — 11
www.heartlandroundup.com

Minneapolis Alano Society
2218 Block Party
Saturday, September 24, Noon to Midnight!
2218 First Avenue, Minneapolis
Speakers, live music, food & fun!

Harboring Hope
66th Annual Duluth Roundup
Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center
September 30 - October 2nd
www.duluthroundup.org

MNYPAA STATE CONFERENCE
Minnesota Young People in A.A.
October 21 — 23
Double Tree Hotel, 1500 Park Place Blvd, MPLS
www.mnypaa.org

29th Annual
St. Cloud Roundup
October 28 — 30
St. Cloud Civic Center
Info: 320.398.6118

Dear Bill W.,

How long do I have to keep going to meetings? I've worked all the steps with my sponsor, my family has let me back in, my new job is solid and getting better. If I could put more time into it, I could be a real success!

— An Anonymous Drunk

"It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all of our activities. "How can I best serve Thee -- Thy will (not mine) be done." These are the thoughts which must go with us constantly. We can exercise our will power along this line all we wish. It is the proper use of our will."

— *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 85.



Who don't you think will last five innings?

From the October, 1964 issue of the A.A Grapevine, used by permission.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

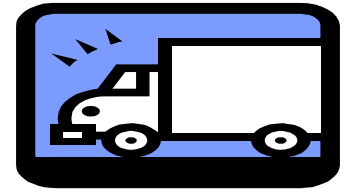
The September Representatives' meeting will be held Tuesday the 20th at 7:30 pm, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 Roy St. N, St. Paul, 55104. The church is just south of the Spruce Tree Centre, across the street from the Intergroup office.

St. Paul Intergroup
Spruce Tree Center
1600 University Ave. W. Ste. 214
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

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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 \$5.00 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., Ste. 214, 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) _____