



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

"Rewards of Step Nine"

At the end of my amends list was the name of a city editor whom I had worked for during my drinking days. I knew he held me in low regard because of my past performance as a reporter. The thought of making direct amends to him overwhelmed me. Besides, I reasoned, it might ruin my reputation and professional credibility. But after being sober five years, I found that the man's name still haunted me. Somehow, I knew that I must face him in person. By coincidence, an AA state convention was to be held in a city near where I formerly worked. So I considered stopping there to see if the man was still city editor.

On the day of the convention, I prayed constantly for courage to go through with my mission. I phoned him, and he agreed to meet me at his office. Going back to that newspaper office was one of the hardest tasks in my life. When I met him, he didn't look angry. In fact, we engaged in small talk for several minutes. Then, I explained why I was there.

I told him about the Fellowship and the importance of thoroughly taking the Steps to the best of one's ability. He was very compassionate and understanding. When I left, a deep guilt had been lifted from me, and I felt whole. All the way back home, I thanked God again and again for Step Nine.

-R.P.; Seaside, Oregon

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

"Will A.A. Ever Have a Personal Government?"

The answer to this question is almost surely "no." That is the clear verdict of our experience.

To begin with, each A.A. has been an individual who, because of his alcoholism, could seldom govern himself. Nor could any other human being govern the alcoholic's obsession to drink, his drive to have things his own way. Time out of mind, families, friends, employers, doctors, clergymen, and judges have tried their hand at disciplining alcoholics. Almost without exception the failure to accomplish anything by coercion has been complete. Yet we alcoholics can be led, we can be inspired: coming into A.A. we can, and we gladly do, yield to the will of God. Hence it is not strange that the only real authority to be found in A.A. is that of spiritual principle. It is never personal authority.

Our unreasonable individualism (egocentricity if you like) was, of course, the main reason we all failed in life and betook ourselves to alcohol. When we couldn't coerce others into conformity with our own plans and desires, we drank. Though now sober, we still have a strong hangover of these early traits which caused us to resist authority. Therein probably hangs a clue to our lack of personal government in A.A.: no fees, no dues, no rules and regulations, no demand that alcoholics conform to A.A. principles, no one set in personal authority over anyone else. Though no sterling virtue, our aversion to obedience does pretty well guarantee us freedom from personal domination of any kind.

Surely I can make these assertions with the greatest of confidence. For in my own turn I, too, have tried a hand at governing A.A. Each time I have strenuously tried it I have been shouted down.

(Continued on page two)

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After struggling a few years to run the A.A. movement I had to give it up – it simply didn't work. Heavy-handed assertion of my personal authority always created confusion and resistance. If I took sides in a controversy, I was joyfully quoted by some, while others murmured, "And just who does this dictator think he is?" If I sharply criticized, I usually got double criticism on the return bounce. Personal power always failed. I can see my older A.A. friends smiling. They are recalling those times when they, too, felt a mighty call to "save the A.A. movement" from something or other. But their days of playing "Pharisee" are now over. So those little maxims "Easy Does It" and "Live and Let Live" have come to be deeply meaningful and significant to them and to me. In such fashion each of us learns that, in A.A., one can be a servant only.

Shall we not do well if, instead, we can cling in some part to the brotherly ideals of the early Franciscans? Let all of us A.A.'s, whether we be trustees, editors, secretaries, janitors or cooks – or just members – ever recall the unimportance of wealth and authority as compared with the vast import of our brotherhood, love and service.

-Bill W.; Akron, OH

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Notes From your Board...

Every month we put out the St Paul Intergroup Lifeline, it has all sorts of information including upcoming events, what's going on at the office, where we need help etc. I have often wondered if people actually take the time to read the Notes from the Board section and what we can do to get people active in helping OUR Intergroup stay alive and vibrant.

Sometimes it takes change; sometimes it takes concern for what's going on? For whatever reason there seems to be an ebb and flow to the activity at the reps meeting and the office volunteers. I can tell you that Intergroup would not survive without the people in our community willing to participate. It might be a simple 3 hours Night Owl shift, it might be an afternoon helping in the office, it might be coming to the reps meeting one time a month to bring information back to your groups – whatever reason we need your help.

At the last meeting we reached out to the Intergroup reps asking for help in possibly locating a new office space, our response to asking for help has been nil, my guess however is that many people out there have an opinion on where we are located. Why are we not hearing from them? What can we do differently to get the information to you and from you? There are 9 Intergroup Board Members and while we represent a cross section of some groups it's not enough we really need input from all of you. I know I personally became involved when I learned changes were going on and I wanted my voice heard. It's a big year for St Paul Intergroup with celebrating our 50th Anniversary, a possible office move and we want to make it the best year ever. Please consider giving the office a call or coming into the Reps meeting.

Christa W., Advisor to the Board

Notes From the Office...

Our newsletter, *The Lifeline*, contains this month on page 4 an announcement of our upcoming elections for a new Board of Directors this November. As you can see from the announcement, we have five positions to fill, Two Member at Large positions, Secretary Alternate Treasurer and Alternate Chairperson.

We hope that you will consider standing for one (or more) of these service opportunities, and help us in the upcoming year with your direction and guidance on the management and direction your Intergroup office should take. It is an exciting year approaching, in which we will celebrate our 50th anniversary since our incorporation in 1966, so a term on our next Board may be even more fun and rewarding that is usual.

If you are yourself unable to serve in this manner, please consider suggesting it to those friends and fellows in our Fellowship whom you think may be able to.

Thanks, St. Paul Area AA!

Area 35 Northern Minnesota & Area 36 Southern Minnesota

Present

Statewide Corrections Committee Workshop

Ever want to carry the message into a prison but were afraid?

Speakers
Q & A
Food & Beverages

Ever want to volunteer to help in Corrections, but did not know how?

“Love & tolerance of others is our code” Big Book p. 84

Working with offenders regardless of their offenses
Dispelling myths, rumors, and fears of carrying the message into prisons & working with offenders after release

October 10, 2015 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Calvary Community Church
1200 Roosevelt Road
St. Cloud MN 56301**

Lunch Provided

2015 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Tim B.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Sandy K.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Scott L.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	John M.
<u>Alt. Treasurer</u>	Joe W.
<u>Members at Large 2015:</u>	Hillary B. & Paul T.
<u>Members at Large 2016:</u>	Jestine M. & Mike C.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Christa W.

Office Calls in July 2015

Meeting information	127
Inventory/hours	36
12th Step calls	7
Temporary sponsor	13
Speaker request	13
Special events	4
Outside issues	23
Info for professionals	1
Administrative	97
Other	64
Total Calls	385
Daily average	16.7
Visitors	286



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St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Elections

**for Board Members & Officers
*Tuesday, November 17th, 7:30pm***

**at the Representatives Meeting
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
436 Roy Street North, St. Paul 55104**

Open Positions:

Alternate Chair

(3-year commitment—become Board Chair)

Alternate Treasurer

(2-year commitment—become Treasurer)

Secretary

(1-year commitment)

Two Member-at-Large

(2 year commitment)

Nominations will be accepted at the Intergroup office, or at the October and November Representative Meetings. Please submit to the office a service resume with relevant AA and non-AA experience.

For more information

please visit the Intergroup website:

<http://www.aastpaul.org/?topic=14&article=28>

or call us between 9:00AM – 5:30PM, M - F

651-227-5502

We will be happy to answer any questions!

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

<p>34th Annual Minnesota Fellowship Weekend Doubletree Park Place St. Louis Park, MN Friday, September 4th - Saturday, September 5th For more info: www.mnfellowshipweekend.com</p>	<p>57th Annual Southern Minnesota Roundup "Spirit to Spirit...We Carry the Message" Best Western Hotel Hwy 169, North Mankato, MN Friday, September 11th - Sunday, September 13th For more info: somnroundup@gmail.com</p>
<p>The Study in Action Group ~ September St. Paul Session ~ The Recovery Church 253 State Street, St. Paul Begins Sunday, September 13th 7 - 8:30PM Meets for 15 consecutive Sundays "Come do all the Steps as laid out in our Basic Text"</p>	<p>70th Annual Duluth Roundup "Growth Has Only Begun" Marshall High School, Duluth, MN Friday, Sept. 18th - Sunday, Sept. 20th For More Info: www.duluthroundup.org</p>
<p>District 19 & District 24 present:... "Emotional Sobriety: A Continuing Journey Or A Destination?" Bridgewood Church 6201 W. 135th Street Savage, MN Saturday, October 3rd from 10AM - 2PM Four Speakers, Lunch & Beverages provided.</p>	<p>Southern Minnesota Area 36 Area Assembly Hutchinson Event Center Hutchinson, MN Saturday, October 17th 9AM - 5PM For more info: www.area36.org</p>
<p><u>Group and Area News</u></p> <p>Meeting Time Change: The <i>Stillwater West End</i> group is now meeting Wednesdays at 7:30PM, instead of 8:00pm, at the Senior Center, 2300 West Orleans Street in Stillwater, MN. The meeting remains a Closed, All-Ages, Mixed, Step-study.</p>	<p><u>Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops</u></p> <p>By The Book 4th Step Workshop Wednesdays, ~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~ 2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404 For more info: www.aabythebook.org</p> <p><u>Your News?</u></p> <p>We invite you to share your AA news here! Please send your items to lifeline@aastpaul.org. We look forward to hearing from you.</p>



**Looking for a Service Opportunity?
Become a St. Paul Intergroup Night Owl!**
Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturdays



September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, December 19th
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
St. Paul Intergroup Office
1600 University Ave. W. - Suite #214
To RSVP please call: **651-227-5502** (Please call by 4PM the Friday before to RSVP)

St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes July 21st, 2015

Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.

Minutes from June were reviewed and approved, Terry H motioned and John seconded.

Treasurer's Report, John M gave the treasurer's report. Bank account total is \$30,322 and prudent reserve is \$45,004. Total contributions are up.

Overall there was a net income increase of \$26. Contact John M at treasurer@aastpaul.org

The Office Report, literature/medallion sales are up, Big Book and 12x12 in Ukrainian were sold! Office worker position open, District 8's Green Can plan needs funds, 34 groups and 18 indiv. Faithful Fivers contributed, Lifeline humor section to lifeline@aastpaul.org. Contact Frank N at manager@aastpaul.org

The Website Report, down one meeting. Service opportunities and Night Owl opportunities are available on the website, see website for guidelines on posting events. Contact Jonathan at webservant@aastpaul.org

Outreach Program, need volunteers to visit meetings never visited. Contact Jestine M at outreach@aastpaul.org

Update from the Board, Christa W, Spruce Tree lease ad hoc location committee needs members, elections are in 4 months for board positions (alt chair, alt. treasurer, at-large and secretary). Contact Frank N at manager@aastpaul.org

Night Owl Report, full committee now with 5 members, Night Owl Orientation is every third Sa at 10 a.m. in the Office. See website for open shifts. Contact Frank N at manager@aastpaul.org of Dan S at 612-328-3444

Liaison Reports, District 8, Leslie D, area treatment chair spoke on temp. contact program, State Fair volunteers needed, District 15, Julie H, Washington Co. Fair 8/29-9/2 needs volunteers, District 19, Dan R, letter out to high schools offering services and soon similar letter for treatment centers, Dakota Co. Jail in Hastings, MN needs service volunteers, workshop with District 24 on Emotional Sobriety w/4 speakers, lunch provided.

Upcoming Intergroup Events, Ice Cream Social, Sa 8/22, 4-6, Recovery Church, 6-8 speakers with 25 years plus sobriety, Gratitude Night, Sa 11/21, Mt. Zion Church, confirmed.

Old Business, see office report re: Lifeline's new humor section

New Business, none

Group AA Announcements

Students of Life picnic, Sa 8/15 4 pm at Hidden Falls Park

Ladies Night Out women's group in Lindstrom renamed Happy Hour, format is Alternating Big Book, Topic and Joe and Charlie CD's, 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6:30 p.m, Trinity Lutheran Church

District 8 has service opportunities, see website

New Brighton BB, Su 8/2 9am, 8th Anniv. potluck, 9:45am Hillary B speaker, New Brighton Family Center

Maplewood Alano, Su 7/26 10am, Battle Creek Park, Larry B speaker and food

Pastor of First Christian Church in Mahtomedi has meeting/event space available for AA

Suggestions for next month's agenda, none

Grapevine Report, Hillary B, volunteer for Aug., Topher

Concept VII Review, Dave L presented by John M, volunteer for Aug., Concept VIII, Dan R

Mock Rep Report, Terry H, volunteer for Aug., Mike C

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

ATTENDANCE:

Tim B., Board Chair	Christa W., Board Advisor	Scott L., Secretary	John M., Treas- urer	Joe W., Alt. Treasurer	Paul T., Mem- ber at Large
Hillary B., Mem- ber at Large	Jestine M., Member at Large	Mike C., Member at Large	Frank N., Office Manag- er	Jill J., Como Park BB	Stephanie, Como Park BB
Leslie D., District 8	Julie H., District 15	Dan R., District 19	Terry H., The Firing Line	Nick A., The Firing Line	Catherine K., Fireside Wom- en's
John K., Grati- tude in Action	Mugsy A., Hole in the Doughnut	Shawn Y., Maplewood Alano	Ronda M., Midway Club	James D., New Brighton Big Book	Topher, OMD
Breck M., The Promises	Tony A., Rule 62	Meghan K., Students of Life	Cheryl B., Third Edition	Peter O., Up In Smoke	Michael C., Uptown Club

September MEETING: Tuesday the 15st, 2015 (7:30 PM)

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
436 Roy Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

**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. W.
Suite 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 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

JULY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors:	48
Total Group Contributions:	\$5393
Number of Faithful Fivers:	25
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$672

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
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 super
volunteers who helped in the
Office during July**

Adam P., Barb M., Bob P.,
Brian C., Burt K., Courtney S.,
Craig S., Dan B., Deb B.,
Derek M., Frank D., Henry O.,
Jack S., Jason S., Jeff K.,
Jim C., John V., Lisa B.,
Mike B., Mike C., Nikki M.,
Rebecca N., Pat W.,
Rosie S., Rosey, Steve W.,
Vin S., Ty

**Thanks to all
the NightOwl
volunteers and
groups as well!**



**Thanks to the groups that
contributed in July 2015**

- 11 W. Bernard Group
- 11th Step FINE Group
- 12x12 By the Book
- 24 Hours of Hope - Lakeville
- A Way Out
- Anoka Day By Day
- Baffled Lot - Lake Elmo
- Book Club- 'The book club'
- Children of Chaos Plus
- Dakota Alano As Bill Sees It Sat 9AM
- Dakota Alano Wed 8 PM
- Day by Day Women's Group
- Defogged Men's Group
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Hampden Park AA
- Happy Joyous and Free
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Highway 96er's Group
- Hugo Group
- Island Lake Group
- Jumpstart 12 & 12
- Just for Today Women's
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Lakers Saturday Morning AA
- Lakeville Wed. Beginners Group
- Maplewood Groups
- Mendota St. Peter's Sat 1030 Group
- New Brighton Big Book A.M.
- No Time Like The Present
- Pages of Wisdom BB
- Pocketing Our Pride
- Roseville Wed Night
- Rule 62 Step & Tradition Group
- S.O.S. Group
- Shalom Group
- South Suburban
- Stepsisters of Northfield
- Stillwater Morning Groups
- Summit Hill
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Una Luz en el Camino
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- Weekend Jumpstart II
- Woodbury Primary Purpose

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

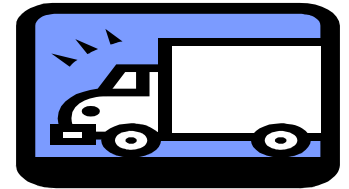
The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for groups and members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. We welcome articles on a Step, Tradition or Concept, or descriptions of personal experience. Please email your article to lifeline@aastpaul.org, or send it by regular mail to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W. #214, St. Paul MN 55104. 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.

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

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities MN
Permit No. 7451

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* - Enrollment Form

Faithful Fivers graciously contribute \$5.00 or more to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry A.A.'s 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.

~Yes! Please enroll me as a *Faithful Fiver* !

1. Contact information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____

2. Amount & Frequency:

Amount: \$ _____
Frequency: (check only one)
 Monthly Quarterly Bi-Annually Annually
Start on ____/____/____
 Please send my receipt to my email address
 Please send my receipt to my home/postal address
 Please send my **Lifeline** to my **email** address instead

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard
Card # _____/_____/_____/_____
Expiration Date: ____/____
Name on Card _____

Signature _____

*I authorize St. Paul Intergroup to automatically bill my account as specified (monthly, quarterly, etc.). I understand that I am free to cancel this authorization at any time by contacting Intergroup.

Check - Please make payable to:

Saint Paul Intergroup
1600 University Ave W. - Suite 214
Saint Paul, MN 55104