



Step Twelve: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

List of Dreams

I'm forty years old. I'm working for hourly wages, and I have no husband to support me. I'm too old to go back to school--I'd be almost fifty when I started a new career! I'm sober, but I still resent alcohol ruining my life!" This declaration was made by an attractive, articulate woman, at the end of an out-of-town meeting that my husband and I were attending on one of our adventures across the country.

I wanted to share my experience and hope with this lady, but the meeting was coming to a close, and she left hurriedly after the Lord's Prayer. I thought about what she had said and found it very similar to what I had said fourteen years ago, at the age of forty. I also remember with brilliant clarity what was said to me: "Well, in ten years, you'll be fifty whether you go to school or not. Would you rather be fifty with a degree or be fifty without a degree?" Ah, such wisdom!

I am now fifty-four, and I have had my Ph.D. for two years. I worked full-time and finished my undergraduate degree. The following year I was accepted into a master's program. The same month I started graduate school (I was still working full-time), I was diagnosed with cancer (my past consumption of alcohol and withdrawals were primary factors), and had surgery with two and a half months of daily radiation treatments as a follow up. Somehow, I continued in school and work (with three weeks off for surgery) and completed that first semester. My master's took two years, and following completion, I was accepted in a doctoral program. That program took a little over three years to complete. True, I'll probably be paying off my student loans with my social security checks, but that's okay. The years in school were some of the best in my almost fourteen years of sobriety. I am now doing the things I only fantasized about when I had my vodka tonic in one hand and my dream list in the other.

One of my jobs is as an adjunct faculty member at a local university. I often hear women (and men) in their thirties and forties offer their age as an excuse for not going to graduate school. I tell them if age is the only excuse, they might want to reconsider.

Had I not remained sober, I would never have accomplished my goals. Remaining sober and following the principles I learned in AA allowed me to experience miracle beyond sobriety, but not beyond my dreams. In sobriety, my dreams really do mean something.

I hope somewhere, a woman in her forties is reading this--and reconsidering her options.

- Romey P.

Jeffersonville, Indiana

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St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup, Inc.
608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102

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

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Charlie W. hadn't achieved forty-six years of sobriety without developing a strong sense of the Steps and Traditions, and the intuitive thought described in our Promises.

Jack, the newspaper editor in Charlie's small hometown in Oklahoma, had proved himself an enthusiastic--if uninformed--friend and admirer of AA. He kept pressing Charlie to share his years of accumulated wisdom with readers through an interview--anonymously, of course.

Charlie continued to refuse the interview, contending he couldn't speak for AA, or even for his Laid Back Group. But the editor continued to plead until, one day, Charlie relented.

"Here," Charlie said, "is the wisdom I've gathered from forty-six years of active and sober participation in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous."

And he leaned forward with great confidentiality.

"Alcoholics Anonymous, Jack, is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. . . ."

Jack's pen scribbled furiously on his notepad.

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking."

The pen flew.

"There are no dues or fees for AA membership, Jack; we are self-supporting through our own contributions."

Jack's jaw was going slack with the wisdom of this man.

"You see, Jack, Alcoholics Anonymous is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution. It does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

"Our primary purpose, Jack, is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

Wow! Away ran Jack with his interview, and, meticulously guarding the anonymity of the old-timer, he ran the interview in full.

AA members read the story in belly-laughing admiration of the adroitness of the old-timer. The general public got a straight-from-the-book definition of what AA is and is not.

And Charlie W. sat back with a quiet prayer of gratitude that his group recited the AA Preamble from memory at the beginning of every meeting.

- Ralph M.
Heavener, Oklahoma

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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.

Thoughts From Your Board

"Nor is this the only kind of Twelfth Step work ... We can be the ones who take on the unspectacular but important tasks that make good Twelfth Step work possible, perhaps arranging for the coffee and cake after the meetings, where so many skeptical, suspicious newcomers have found confidence and comfort in the laughter and talk. This is Twelfth Step work in the very best sense of the word. 'Freely ye have received; freely give ...' is the core of this part of Step Twelve." (*12 Steps and 12 Traditions*, p. 110)

As I prepare to rotate out of my service position on the Board this December 2017, I reflected on this excerpt of carrying the message in the 12 & 12. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be of service to St. Paul Intergroup.

Early in recovery, my sponsor suggested I make coffee at my home group. Of course, being a fearful, self-centered alcoholic, I wondered what that had to do with staying sober. Sound familiar? Today, many 24 hours later, I know that service is one of the keys for continuous sobriety.

My last event to serve on the St. Paul Intergroup Board will be co-chairing the New Year's Eve celebration. I hope you can make it. If you do, ask me about other types of Twelfth Step work besides one-on-one sponsorship. Maybe I can suggest a coffee-making commitment!

Yours in service,

J.D. (James D.)

Member at Large, 2017

Concept Twelve: General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Often referred to as the A.A. Bill of Rights, the principled attitudes listed in Concept Twelve are much like what we often call the "core values" in our homes. They spell out the attitudes we hope to utilize in our family—here it is the operation of our Headquarters, which is responsible to the fellowship of A.A.

I have a dear friend who has a policy that "seat belts must remain on in my car until the shifter is in the 'park' position." That is part of her "Twelfth Concept" for living. She doesn't say what you can do while the seat belt is on, or the manner in which you engage or disengage it—just that it must be worn under certain conditions.

So the Warranties embodied in Concept Twelve work the same way. They provide – just like my friend – parameters within which we think it is best for all our service entities to operate. The primary purpose here is unity – without which we cannot survive as a Fellowship, and without which we will suffer badly as individuals.

-Anonymous

Join St. Paul AA Intergroup

In a Sober Celebration!!

New Year's Eve 2017

Sunday, December 31st



7:00 PM **Open Speaker Meeting**

Speaker: Sarah W. - Eagan Wed. Night

 ASL Interpreted

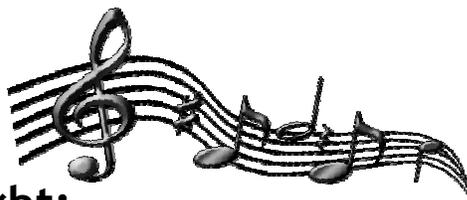


9:00 PM—Midnight - **Dance**

Live D. J.

“Lil Miss Anarchy”

(\$5.00* Contribution Requested)



9:00 PM—Midnight:

**Marathon
Step Meetings**



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

285 North Dale Street - St. Paul, MN 55103

For more Information call the Intergroup office: 651-227-5502

*No one turned away for lack of funds - plenty of service opportunities!!

Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

Thanks to all the amazing Night Owl volunteers. You are **awesome!!!**

We currently have the following shifts needing an owl:

4th Tuesday 10pm (overnight)

5th Saturday 2pm-7pm

WANTED: 2 Night Owl Committee volunteers

The Night Owl Committee members take turns carrying the back-up Phone) for one week at a time. We help out if a volunteer has a problem and we also make the reminder calls.

Requirements:

- +1 year sobriety
- +Answer the back-up phone during your rotation
- +Experience with Night Owl
- +2 yr commitment

CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE NIGHT OWL PHONE SERVICE IN EARLY 2018. MORE INFO COMING SOON

Reminders to all groups! When you get a new Night Owl Coordinator for your group, please send an e-mail to let me know who it is and update their phone number so the committee person making reminder calls is taking to the correct individual.

Send e-mails to me at nightowl@aastpaul.org

Group and Area News

New Meeting: The *Capitol Hill GLBTQ Group* is hosting a Thursday 7:30 PM meeting at the Christ Lutheran Church, 105 University Ave W. Saint Paul, 55103. The Meeting is Closed, Discussion, Mixed, & All-Ages. Enter the Parking Lot from Sherburne Avenue on the North side of the church. Enter by marked door closest to the Northeast corner of the building facing the parking lot.

New Meeting: The *Simple Reliance Group* is holding a Monday 7:00pm Big Book meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran/Valley Christian Church 20270 Iberia Avenue, Lakeville, 55044 (Corner of Hwy 50 and Iberia Ave). The Meeting is Open, Mixed, All-Ages & Handicap Accessible.

New Meeting: The *Forest Lake AA Groups* added a new Friday 10:00AM Meditation Meeting at Forest Lake Alano, 156 Northwest 3rd Street Forest Lake, 55025. The Meeting is Open, Mixed, & All-ages.

Meeting Revived: A *Way Out Men's Group* found a new home and now meets Sundays, 7:30PM, downstairs at Saint Albert the Great Catholic Church 2836 33rd Avenue, South Minneapolis, 55406. The Meeting is Closed, All-Ages, Topic/Discussion, with a Speaker on the last Sunday of the month.

Meeting No More: The *Saint Anthony Park Group* disbanded its Monday 8:30PM meeting at the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Avenue, Saint Anthony Park, 55108.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Dec 16th, Jan 20th, Feb 17th

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, October 17th, 2017 7:30pm

Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and the reading of the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
 Minutes from last month were reviewed, Guillermo motioned and Cheryl seconded, motion approved.
 Treasurer's Report, – Matt R went over the report. The prudent reserve is \$35,019 (10k was shifted to operating acct) and the Checking Acct is at \$25,227. Total contributions are up, group contributions are down and office sales are up. Large Gopher State extra funds donation was major contributor. Expenses increased \$5,074. The Profit & Loss statement has been fixed and provided to the Board. See Treasurer's Report for full financial details.
 Contact Matt at treasurer@aastpaul.org.
 Office Report, Dennis – Explained the Faithful Fiver program after a question was asked about it. The Quickbooks issues have been fixed and the Profit & Loss statements are accurate again. Gopher State made a large contribution from their excess funds. The Office is more aggressive in enforcing 30-day agreements for outstanding debt owed, which has been going well. Less volunteers lately. Please note in the Lifeline there is the flyer and information including speakers for Gratitude Night.
 Night Owl Report, Cheryl B – Lots of missed shifts lately. There are two regular shifts opening up, 1st Sundays 9am-2pm and one other. Seeking fluent Spanish speakers for the Nightowl packet. Seeking NightOwl committee members as well. See additional info in the hoots. Contact Cheryl at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the intergroup office.
 Website Report, Jonathan gave the report. There are 687 meetings and 277 groups total. Down 3 meetings and the groups remained level. There are 14 service opportunities and two open Night Owl shifts per the website. The mobile site is still up for parallel testing, the link is in the corner of the regular site and still accepting feedback. Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.
 Outreach Program – Volunteers are still needed for visiting meetings, see Thoughts from the Board in the Lifeline. Refer to the Outreach Info Sheet for full instructions. Contact Carolyn M at outreach@aastpaul.org.
 Update from the Board, Jenni, Elections are next month! We are still seeking an Alternate Treasurer who will take over in January. Positions listed in the LifeLine.
 Liaison Reports: District 8 Mike C, The funds for a radio PSA for AA was funded by district and is airing on 107.9FM. There will be a district 8 suite at Founders Day. Upcoming Treatment & Corrections Facilities workshop, details forthcoming. ; District 15 Bob Z, no announcement; District 19 Brian M, District made donation to Area 36 with excess funds. May be svc opportunities for the Jail in Hastings. Three initiatives moving forward: Treatment Centers, High Schools, and Hospitals/Clinics.
 Upcoming Intergroup Events
 Gratitude Night – Nov. 18th at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at 285 Dale Street North in St Paul. Speaker and flyer can be found in Lifeline or Intergroup website.
 Founders Day – Nov. 24th-26th at DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel. 7800 Normandale Blvd. Mpls, MN 55439. Lesli is the contact for volunteer shifts.
 Old Business:
 New Business:
 Founders Day Presentation by Ed from planning committee. A 77 year tradition. See the orange flyers, plenty of volunteer opportunities still open.
 Group AA Announcements:
 OMD Potluck & Sobriety Recognition Friday Nov 3rd at 7pm. Speaker is Renee B
 St Paul Speaker Meeting – Sunday Oct 22nd potluck at 5:30 and speaker at 7pm. See website.
 Suggestions for next months's agenda: Elections!
 Grapevine Report, Lesli; Volunteer for December, Sandi
 Concept IX review, Adam; Volunteer for Concept X for December, Brian
 Mock Rep Report, Andrew; Volunteer for December, Lindsey
 Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: Como Park Big Book, Roseville; District 8; East Side 12&12, St. Paul; Forest Lake Alano, Forest Lake; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; L:akeView AA, Maplewood; Look To This Day, St. Paul; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano, Maplewood; Meeting of the Waters Mendota Heights; No Time Like the Present, Roseville; Outright Mental Defectives, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Rule 62 Step & Tradition, St. Paul; St. Paul Speaker Meeting, St. Paul: Summit Hill, St. Paul; Uptown Groups, St. Paul.

<u>2017 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—October 2017</u>	
Chair:	Jenni S.	Meeting information	93
Alternate Chair:	Lesli D.	Inventory/hours	45
Secretary:	Rob C.	12th Step calls	7
Treasurer:	Matt R.	Temporary sponsor	24
Alternate Treasurer:	OPEN	Speaker request	27
Members-at-Large 2017:	J.D. & Carolyn M.	Special events	1
Members-at-Large 2018	Tom S. & Erik M.	Outside issues	13
Advisor to the Board:	Sandy K.	Info for professionals	4
Manager	Dennis B.	Administrative	86
		Other	49
		Total Calls	349
		Average Calls/Day	15.2
		Total Visitors	224

December 2017 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:30 PM
 SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH
 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

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	47
Total Group Contributions:	\$5698
Number of Faithful Fivers:	14
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$400



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 October**

- 3R's Group
- A Baffled Lot
- Amazing Grace Group
- Amigos III
- Anoka Day By Day
- Basic Text
- Children of Chaos Plus
- Como Ave Step & Topic
- Dakota Alano THUR 1145AM
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Eagan Wed Night Open Meeting
- Easy Does It
- Element Group
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fourth Dimension
- Friday Nite 12x12 By The Book
- Friends in Recovery
- Happy Joyous and Free - Mahtomedi
- Hastings Club
- Highland Park Groups
- Hugo Group
- Joy of Living Group
- Jumpstart 12 & 12
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Live and Let Live
- Maplewood Groups
- Meeting of the Waters
- New Brighton BB
- North Dale Group
- Office Walk-In
- Pages of Wisdom
- Pocket Our Pride
- Ridge Runners III Sun 830AM
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Centennial Group
- Roseville Wed Night
- Saturday Morning PS Meeting
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- St. Paul Sun Night Speaker Meeting
- Steps to Freedom
- Stillwater Rivertown Group Sun PM
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Una Luz en el Camino
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Monday
- Women's Basic Text

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

Bill S., Bob P., Chrissie S.,
CJ M., Frank D., Henry O., Jake B.
Jimmy D., Marc S., Marshall B.,
Peg F., Suzanne B., Ty K., Woody W.

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



How to Spot a Priority in A.A.

Among the many lessons I've been taught in A.A. are, one, that my actions speak louder than my words, and two, that you'll know my priorities by where I spend my time and where I spend my money. If I try to combine those two lessons and look at my own life in A.A., what are my actions saying about me? Where am I spending my time? Where am I spending my money? The same questions can be asked about our Fellowship as a whole – at the group, District, Intergroup, Area, Region, and General Service Conference level. What are our actions saying about us? How are we spending our time and our money? What does all of it say about our priorities?

To the point about actions and words, at first glance it seems like most of what we do as a Fellowship involves talking. It would be easy to judge us as a Fellowship of talkers, not doers. We talk in meetings, no matter if it's a speaker meeting or a discussion meeting or a Big Book Study. Someone's always talking. The times we get together and call it service or general service – like our business meetings, group conscience meetings, District Meetings, or Area Assemblies – someone is always talking. We love workshops and roundups where the main event is someone talking. Are we hypocrites? Are we all talk and no action?

Fortunately, I have been reminded over and over again during my sobriety that I have a primary purpose, which is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. That helps me see that talking can sometimes be a useful action in and of itself. We call it sharing experience, strength, and hope. Sharing an honest account of our own stories with newcomers gives them a way to relate to us, to hear something that makes them feel like they belong. This is carrying the message and it is the core of our program of recovery.

But what about all that other talking – all the talking about business and service? Well, that's trickier. Certainly, if our talk at service meetings and events is about how best to reach the newcomers in our Fellowship or how to get word out to more professionals who might refer newcomers to us, then obviously that talking is also useful. But what about when our talking focuses on how we do our business or how we run our meetings? What if we find ourselves arguing with each other about who should be allowed to participate or how often we should get together? Or to bring the concepts of time and money together – what if we spend our time talking about where we spend our money? You might recognize this as budgeting. In these situations, we will need to ask ourselves if the amount of time we are spending on an issue is in keeping with the relative importance of that issue to us and to the Fellowship. Where we spend our time shows what our priorities are, just like where we spend our money shows what our priorities are.

And now about money. To get at our priorities with money, it is worth looking at our budgets (the aspirations we have for our money) and our actual spending (the truth about what we think is important). This is true at all levels. Personally, I have to ask how much I am contributing in 7th Tradition. What does the amount say about my priorities? At the group level, we often have to make choices between two or more items that each have value. How do we decide? Do we spend our money on higher rent at a more welcoming and accessible meeting space or on a new amplifier for our sound system so that everyone can hear the message of hope being shared? At the District level, do we spend our money on workshops or do we spend our money putting out public service announcements? At the Area level, how much money do we spend on reimbursing travel to meetings for our trusted servants? How much money do we spend on events teaching and preparing our next batch of trusted servants? How much money do we spend on services like public information and literature?

(Continued Pg. 2)

How to Spot a Priority in A.A. (Con't)

These are all questions we should be asking and deciding together. That is one of the functions of our group conscience. How we spend our time and money shows our priorities. We set our priorities in A.A. through our group conscience. Tradition Two tells us that's the way to let God into the process.

Pay attention at your next meeting, whatever kind of meeting it is. Look around and see how you and the group are spending their time and money. If there isn't financial information readily available, ask for it. Listen to what people are saying is important and then see if their time and money are actually being spent on those things. You'll begin to see what the priorities are. And once you see the truth of it, you can then ask yourself if those are the priorities you support. If not, then you know what to do. Bring it up at the next business meeting or District Meeting or Area Assembly. You have the authority and the responsibility as an A.A. member to help shape our priorities. You do that by being an active participant in the group conscience.

Thanks for all your service,
Curt K.
Panel 67 Delegate, Area 36 – Southern Minnesota
delegate@area36.org

“Keeping Informed -- AAWS”

As a director on Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS), about every six weeks I visit the General Service Office for an AAWS Board meeting. In general terms, the day is filled with all of the AAWS committee meetings (Nominating, Finance, Publishing, Tech/Communications/Services, Internal Audit Committee), followed by these AAWS committees reporting, a report by the staff coordinator on all of the service desks at GSO, plus a General Manager report. After all that is done, do we have an AAWS Corporate Board Meeting, which is sometimes followed by an AAWS Board Meeting Executive Session.

With such a packed schedule, the staff coordinator assembles a report that highlights all the staff members' major work that's transpired since the last AAWS Board meeting. I'd like to share some example information with you that the Staff Coordinator presented to us at the most recent meeting, to illustrate to you the extensive amount of work that your General Service Office is doing for you and the AA fellowship as a whole. Here's a synopsis:

Communication Services – Clement C.

Communications Services continues to support the daily operations of our current website, the development of a new website design for aa.org, the discussion of an app for G.S.O., the Communications audit committee and the Google Non-Profit A.A.W.S. YouTube channel.

The Website committee has added a new page to the Digital Archives on Sam Shoemaker and a new option on the A.A. Literature page for Newsletters. The International coordinator and Digital Media manager continue their development of the A.A. Around the World page.

The Channels of Communications with the Fellowship subcommittee of Technology/Communications /Services continue to explore the options for an app for G.S.O. The new A.A.W.S. YouTube channel is in the final stages of implementation. In addition, we are in the process of gathering internal and external communications for the Communications audit committee.

(Continued page 3)

“Keeping Informed -- AAWS” (Con’t)

C.P.C. – Jeff W.

The C.P.C. Coordinator serves as Liaison to professional organizations like the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA.) In September, I attended their quarterly meeting. Director, George Koob, reported, “Increases in the prevalence of alcohol misuse disorder among women point to a growing adverse effect of alcohol on the health of women in the United States.” He also cited upward trends of drinking among adults ages 60+, and said that further research into this is a priority for the NIAAA. The organization also plans to study long term recovery.

We are currently planning the calendar of 2018 National Conferences that will enable us to reach doctors and nurses, psychiatrists and counselors, corrections and legal professionals, those in the clergy, the military, gerontology, educators, and H.R. professionals. Local C.P.C. committees have responded enthusiastically about staffing the exhibits.

Corrections – Diana L.

Six months ago, the assignment received a request for information about AA and what meetings are about. She wrote back last week sharing that not only has she stayed sober, she worked with the local committee to start a prison group that now has 35 members and is connected to the general service structure.

International – Mary C.

The desk remains busy with correspondence from around the world as well as with members from the U.S. and Canada who have questions about A.A. in other countries. We have recently heard from a member in Tashkent, Uzbekistan who has started an A.A. group, the first there that we know of. We sent them a package of literature. Active projects include the International A.A. Data Map, the 2018-2019 International A.A. Directory, the A.A. Around the World webpage and preparations for the 25th World Service Meeting that will be held in Durban, South Africa in October 2018.

Nominating – Julio E.

An early reminder from the Nominating desk has been sent to all trustees committees that utilize appointed committee members requesting a written response regarding plans to begin a search to add an appointed committee member (A.C.M.), replace an A.C.M. that will be rotating or the intent to reappoint A.C.M. for an additional term.

Public Information – Clay R.

The video P.S.A. “I Have Hope,” released to broadcasters in February 2017, has been aired 62 thousand times with 596 million audience impressions in North America as of the end of September 2017. This data is inclusive of airings in English, French and Spanish.

The P.I. coordinator has continued to be G.S.O.'s point person for communications regarding the 1939 Printer's Copy manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. The assignment also responds to inquiries from A.A. members regarding anonymity, general media inquiries and request for sharing from local P.I. committees.

Regional Forums – Steve S.

The West Central Regional Forum was held in Area 63 South Dakota from September 8-10 with 281 participants, including 127 first-time attendees. The Southwest Regional Forum will be held in Area 68 Southwest Texas from October 20-22 and the East Central Regional Forum will be held in Area 21 Illinois from November 17-19. Two Local Forums, in Area 72 Western Washington and Area 75 Southern Wisconsin, took place in July and September respectively.

(Continued pg. 4)

“Keeping Informed -- AAWS” (Con’t)

Regional Forums – Steve S.(Con’t)

EBlasts were sent to trusted servants and pre-registrants for three of the 2017 Regional Forums. Information has reached more than 7,300 trusted servants as well as a total of over 400 pre-registrants with over 1,000 of the recipients clicking on links in the emails to view details about upcoming Forums.

Treatment and Accessibilities – Patrick C.

A request has been sent for input on the need to develop a pamphlet, or other media, reflecting recovery experiences of Deaf A.A. members. An in-house video version of the questionnaire was recently created in ASL for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing A.A. members and has been distributed with a December 1, 2017 deadline for responses.

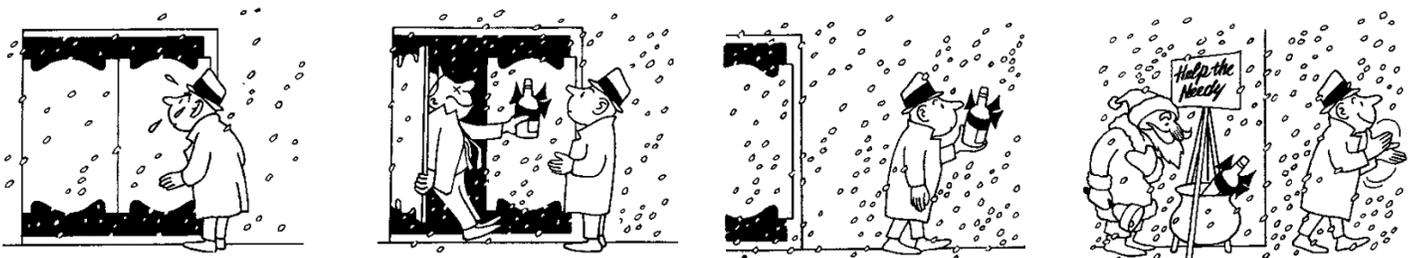
The West Central Regional Forum display of certain accessibilities materials resulted in some excellent feedback from several Deaf A.A. members in attendance. This will aid in the review of the current inventory of A.A.W.S. accessibilities literature.

These are just examples of key items. Last year, there were approximately 100,000 pieces of correspondence and shipments performed by the employees at the General Service Office. Besides their primary assignment, staff members also serve as regional correspondents, plus each serve as secretaries to Conference and Trustee committees. Plus, they are commonly on the road serving at AA functions.

As your trustee, I report to your delegate on the activities at the Office. The above example information is provided on a quarterly basis in a written report I furnish to your delegate, plus we have quarterly WCR conference calls to discuss this type of information and much more.

The service structure is vibrant with many activities all designed to help the alcoholic in many ways. Each committee of your area has someone at the GSO that can always serve as a resource to best insure the AA message is carried wherever and whenever it is needed.

With Gratitude,
Thomas A.
WCR Trustee & AAWS Director

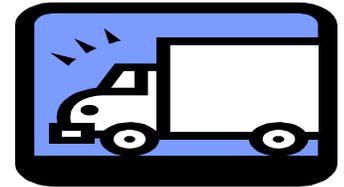


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