



## Letter from New York: A Message from the Chief Financial Officer of the AA General Service Office.

Dear AA Member:

My name is Don, and as the controller and CFO at your General Service Office I have been given the honor of communicating with the 50,000 plus AA groups in the United States and Canada.

As your controller, I help the boards and committees try to spend you money prudently and plan for both short-term and long-term financial affairs. While the average AA member says "one day at a time," my job forces me to ask what about next month, next year and ten years from now.

As Tradition Nine tells us, even though AA is unorganized we have special offices, boards and service workers, and for those things money is needed.

How do members of the fellowship support AA work financially? Hopefully, you make a conscience decisions to support AA through your Seventh Tradition contributions. Many think of self-support as revenue from contributions and Conference-approved literature sales, hopefully more from contributions than from sales.

Frequently members want to know "what do they do with the money"? And at least once a year I hear "if we tell the groups there is a need for money and the Fellowship will respond."

Your boards and trusted servants budget and plan for things that perhaps individual AA's and groups are unaware of. Your group may have 10, 20, or 30 people and worry about rent, coffee, and perhaps even insurance for your space. We worry about renting office space for 80 or more employees. We worry about payroll, payroll taxes, insurance, and pension plans. The AAWS and AA Grapevine Pension Plan even covers former employees, some of whom worked with Bill W. in the office.

Your group may have to think about literature purchases of a few books or pamphlets—we produce hundreds of thousands of books and pamphlets each year, warehouse them, take your orders, and ship them out.

You, your group, district committee or area may take meetings into Prisons, Treatment Facilities, or Hospitals. Your local CPC efforts may include visits to your doctor, lawyer, accountant, sheriff, police chief or judge.

Here at your General Service Office, we have employees whose job requires that they be AA members, not to do Twelfth Step Work, but to respond to phone calls and e-mails, assist the trustees and Conference committees, and to insure that a clear, consistent AA message is communicated.

Your group may think about funding the local answering service. Employees of your GSO speak with hundreds or thousands of AA members every month, which results in a hefty phone bill. We also hear from hundreds or more each month via e-mails.

A few towns from where I live there are Polish-speaking AA groups that help carry the message to those who can only speak Polish in a predominantly English-speaking community. Imagine if you were a still active drunk looking for help and no one understood you. Your contributions help the GSO facilitate translations of pamphlets and books for newly sober members and still-suffering alcoholics in foreign lands, who are incredibly grateful to have a few words written in their own language. Your dollars, as well as help from some established foreign GSO's help support this.

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## Letter from New York, cont'

Each group listed in our computer system receives the same services from this office. Groups get mailings several times a year, a box 4-5-9 bulletin, and other information. Printing, mailing and postage costs adds up to a big expense. Groups, who do not contribute, for whatever reason, still receive the same services. Also, the organized part of the unorganized Fellowship has delegates, directors, trustees and staff who travel on behalf of AA. We also have Conference and carious other meeting expenses.

How much money does all this cost? GSO's annual operating budget is approximately 11 million dollars. This represents approximately \$200 per group, or about \$9.00 per member.

And then...there is the rainy day...

Some groups may be fortunate enough to set aside some funds for a rainy day, know as a Prudent Reserve, usually a few months operating expenses. At business meetings, members discuss the funds needed to support their group, and at what portion of the treasury will be sent to the local Intergroup, area, district and GSO in New York to support AA world-wide services.

If not through contributions, then how are these services funded? Literature sales provide approximately half of the budget and contributions half. Your trusted servants worry about raising prices and how to cover those long-term needs. They hope groups will want to be responsible for funding these services. They hope the groups will feel the need to contribute more to support the office and perhaps be less dependent on literature revenue. Your boards discuss appropriate ways to communicate information to the Fellowship. Some of us wonder if the average AA member hears about services provided by their office. We ponder what it means if the average AA member does not even know what their money in the basket does for others.

Your group tries to be self-supporting for this week or month — we try to be self-supporting until that time when there are no more suffering alcoholics.

Please let us know your thoughts, and if you find this information helpful.

In Fellowship,

Don M.

### Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups "wet," others "dry," still others "Republican" or "Communist," and yet others "Catholic" or "Protestant." The A.A. group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

- from p. 147, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, reprinted with permission from AA World Services Inc.

### 2006 Steering Board

<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Marty M.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>Jeff T.</b>
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Eric H.</b>
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Mary Jo N.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2005:</u></b>	<b>Tom S.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2006:</u></b>	<b>Alfred K. &amp; Roxi S.</b>
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>Renee B.</b>
<b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>	<b>Tom N.</b>

### \*\*\*\*Office Calls

Meeting Info.	176
Inventory/Hours	16
12th Step Calls	23
Temporary Sponsors	8
Speaker Requests	6
Special Events	2
Outside Issues	40
Administrative	29
Other	47
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>64</b>
Visitors	27

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

## St Paul AA Central Intergroup—Minutes from February 21, 2006 Main Body Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30, and the primary purpose of Intergroup was read.

**In attendance:** Jonathan L, Jeff S, Paul T, Jeri L, Noah N, Patrick Schulte, Mary Jo N, Suzanne B, Katie R, Jonathan G, Jeff T, Tom S, Alice S, Laurie T, Diane E, Lisa L, Jon C, Bonnie R, John F, Alfred K, Roxi S, Shiela M, Julia I, Jeff H, Eric H.

The January minutes were approved following a correction in the spelling of Jonathan's name.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Jo presented the treasurer's report for January. In short contributions were over expectations, as was the monthly income. Some of this was from unaccounted contributions from December, though. Expenses were up in telephone use, printing costs, and office literature expenses.

Mary Jo is looking into getting direct deposit for Intergroup employees. There are a few inconsistencies in the numeric report which will be fixed.

**The Office Report:** Tom delivered the office report. He's getting a handle on bookkeeping and found he is able to install Quicken on two computers without buying a second licence for it. Saint Paul Intergroup has been invited to set up a literature table at the 'Recovery in the Park' event but has declined to be a sponsor of the event as per Tradition Six. Tom is looking to add new materials approved by the Grapevine and the AA World Services to our inventory. Lastly, the office could use more volunteers during the day. There is work for people with any amount of sobriety.

**Website Report:** Johnathan presented the website report. January saw unprecedented use of Intergroup's website. We had double to triple the number of visitors as any month in 2005. Jonathan announced a long term goal to create software which would allow office staff to update the website independently.

**Outreach:** Alfred presented the Outreach report. He is focusing on business meetings and steering committees to get across his message. He wrote a script so that the same information is being dispersed to each meeting. His main message thanks each group for its support, asks them to send representatives of their group, and reminds them that their literature comes from Intergroup.

**Night Own Report:** Dianne presented the nightowl report. She has managed to fill nearly every open shift and announced the night owl orientation every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

### Upcoming Events:

**An Open House** is being planned in lieu of Intergroups regular **Tradition Workshop**.

**Spring Fling** A committee was formed and will present its plans at the next intergroup meeting.

### Old Business:

**Minneapolis Gratitude Night** (4/1/2006)

**Women's Conference** provided a great boon to Saint Paul Intergroup by letting us sell literature at the conference.

### New Business:

**Member at Large** needed. This member will chair one event, requires one year continuous sobriety, and will be decided during March's member meeting.

### Group Announcements

**Shoreview 12x12** lost Bob S, a member of 51 years

**Saint Paul Speaker Meeting** is in need of members for its board of trustees. This is a two year commitment and 6 members in all are needed.

Lisa L presented concept two

Jon C volunteered to present concept three in March

Laurie T presented the February mock reps report

Jeff H volunteered to present the March mock reps report.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

**7th Tradition:** "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

**4th Tradition**

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

**7th Tradition**

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

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."

**50% St. Paul Intergroup**

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

**30 % G S O**

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

**10% Southern MN**

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

**INTERGROUP INCOME FOR FEBRUARY**

Total Group Contributions: \$2464.81

Number of Groups Contributing: 28

Total from Faithful Fivers: \$210.00

Number of Faithful Fivers: 10

**District Meetings**

**District 8 (Ramsey Co.)**

Fairview Community Center  
1910 Cty. B, Room 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 terrific volunteers who helped in the Intergroup Office during April!**

Andy B, Anne B, Brad, Christen, Daryl, Deryl, Eliot, Ethan W, Gil, Jack R, Jerry, Kelly S, Ken O, Mike, Mike A, Patti S., Rebecca H, Red B, Roxi, Terry, & Val.

Thanks to all the groups and individuals who took the Night Owl Shifts as well.



**12th Step Opportunity**

Women's Workhouse AA meeting  
Volunteers of America  
Dale and Larpentuer, St. Paul  
Saturday, 11:00 AM, Tuesday 4 - 5 PM  
You'll need a background check (paid for).  
Women only, please.

**Thank you, to all of the groups that contributed in the month of March:**

- Amigo's III**
- Basic Text Women's Group**
- Dakota AA & River Hills AA**
- Highland Park AA**
- Hugo AA**
- Midway AA**
- Pages of Wisdom BB**
- Primary Purpose**
- Red Wing AA**
- Roseville Wednesday Night AA**
- Shoreview Big Book Plus**
- St. John's AA Little Canada**
- St. Luke AA**
- Thank God It's Friday**
- Third Edition AA**
- Uptown AA**
- Valley Creek Monday AA**
- Valley Creek Thurs Night AA**
- White Bear Lake Area AA**

**BE A NIGHT OWL !!**

A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer phones during the hours that Intergroup is closed. 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. Taking on a Night Owl commitment means that when still suffering alcoholics call AA for help, they find another alcoholic at the other end of the line. When you or your group sign up to take a shift, you are trained in how to respond to calls and given all of the materials that are needed. **Please call Katie at the office or go to our website at [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org) if you can help. There are still open shifts in March.**

**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 (no poetry, please), 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. Thank you.

## The Twelve Concepts: Concept IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

*--Reprinted with permission from AA World Services Inc.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS!!

### **Gopher State Round Up XXXIII**

"Twelve Steps to Freedom"  
 May 26, 27, 28, 2006  
 Sheraton Bloomington  
 Highway 100 & 494, Bloomington, MN  
 Registration: \$10.00  
 More Information Available at:  
[www.gopherstateroundup.org](http://www.gopherstateroundup.org)  
 651-227-5502

### **Minneapolis Gratitude Night**

Saturday April 1, 2006  
 Minneapolis Convention Center  
 1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis  
 Tickets: \$10.00  
 Available through the Mpls Intergroup Office  
 952-922-0880

### **St. Paul Spring Fling**

Saturday May 13, 2006  
 Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
 285 North Dale St, St. Paul MN 55102  
 Speakers: 7:00 pm  
 Dance: 9:00 pm—12:00 am  
 Dance Admission: \$5.00  
 More Information: 651-227-5502

### **A.A. - WOMEN TO WOMEN "A Day of Sharing"**

Saturday April 8, 2006  
 9:00am—2:45pm  
 The Pass It on Club  
 6229 W Forest Home Ave  
 Milwaukee, WI 53220  
 414-541-6923

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention**

June 23, 24, 25, 2006  
 Emerald Acres Campground Pearl City, IL  
 Pre-Registration: \$30.00 before June 6th  
 More Information:  
 Jodi S. (815) 703-6071  
 Tom S. (815) 623-5329

### **"A new freedom and a new happiness" 31st Annual Atlanta Round Up**

July 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006  
 Atlanta, GA 30328  
 More Information:  
 770-395-3900

### **Sponsorship, Service & Self Support: In a Changing World**

Saturday, June 10, 2006 12:30 pm—4:30 pm  
 Union Congregational Church  
 3700 Alabama Ave South  
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
 Sponsored by Minneapolis Intergroup  
 952-922-0880

### **"Life Will Mean Something A Last." 14th Annual Erie Area AA Women's Retreat**

June 2, 3, 4, 2006  
 Camp Findley  
 Findley Lake, New York  
 More Information:  
 Kathy B. (814) 899-6497  
 Sallie H. (814) 899-0614

## **Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?**

The April Representatives' meeting will be held April 18 at 7:30pm,  
 at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.

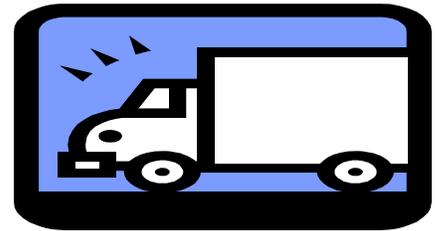
St. Paul Intergroup  
Spruce Tree Center  
1600 University Ave. W., Suite #407  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Change Service Requested

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Permit No. 7451

[Empty rectangular box for address change information]

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**

Contribute five dollars to St. Paul Intergroup every month so we can continue to carry our life-saving message of hope. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the Lifeline.

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