

# The Lifeline



February, 2007

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 42, Issue 2

## **STEP TWO: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**

### **AN AA FINDS HIGHER POWER AFTER REJECTING RELIGION**

For me, the second step was a no-brainer.

I was raised Protestant, in a seriously religious and literate family, so I had read much of the Bible and understood the doctrines. But in my late teens and early 20's I began to see the local congregations of Protestants as irrelevant to my life. Still seeking a spiritual foundation, I began reading about religions and beliefs and practices around the world: Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Paganism, with excursions into astrology, the Kabbalah and Tarot cards. In those younger years, I was actually seeking not just a way to understand the world, but to control it and make it do my will, without any hard work: magic, not spirituality.

Meanwhile, I had begun using. In my college years, pot and LSD were my drugs of choice; later, after I dropped out, left the campus and turned 21, alcohol became easier to get, and it worked just fine.

As the years went by and my drinking gradually progressed, I developed, refined and hardened my belief system: that churches were human institutions, not divine, run by humans with human failings, notably self-seeking. That any organized religion which reaches for or acquires political power, thereby abandons and forfeits its purpose of connecting people to God. But while my contempt for churches, priests, preachers, imams, mullahs and holy men grew, I never lost my belief that there is a God. I just didn't know anything about the nature of God, and I disbelieved that you knew anything either, and if you were preaching anything, you were trying to con me for your own purposes. But also, as the years went by, I met some people who were living good, peaceful and happy lives, people whose spiritual beliefs and practices were central to their lives. Some of them were even Christian. I saw some miracles happen occasionally, when people and groups worked to do God's will, as they understood it; not with any reasonable expectation of success, but with faith in God.

I did the first step in my early forties. I admitted - to myself, at least - that I was powerless over alcohol and my life was unmanageable, but I wasn't ready to stop drinking. When I was finally forced to change things, I had no problem believing that God, whoever He, She, It or They may be, could restore me to sanity. I balked for a while at turning my will and my life over to His/Her/Its/Their care, but eventually I surrendered enough to get sober.

I don't have to know the secret name of God. I don't have to know who's right: the Pope, the Grand Ayatollah, the Dalai Lama, Brigham Young or H.P. Lovecraft. There is a Higher Power, and She (so I shall tentatively pretend, for the time being) can restore me to sanity, if I ask for Her help.

— *Thanks to Frank D., office volunteer, for this submission.*

## **Southern Minnesota Area 36 Committee Meetings**

**February 10, 2007**

Best Western, Mankato, MN

*Area Standing Committees Meet 9:30am—11:30am*

*Area Committee Meeting 1:00pm—5:00pm*

**More info at [www.area36.org](http://www.area36.org)**

**St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®**

Web Site: [www.aastpaul.org](http://www.aastpaul.org)

E-mail: [lifeline@aastpaul.org](mailto:lifeline@aastpaul.org)

Fax: 651-290-0209

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

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

## The Twelve Concepts: Concept II

**When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.**

. . . It was evident that the leadership [of A.A. as a whole] should be transferred [from Bill W. and Doctor Bob] to the A.A. groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.'s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a *delegate* from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and the *A.A. Grapevine* and certain other service workers.

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

**Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**

### AA: Benign Anarchy and Democracy

*From As Bill Sees It, p.50, reprinted by permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

When we come into A.A. we find a greater personal freedom than any other society knows. We cannot be compelled to do anything. In that sense our society is a benign anarchy. The word "anarchy" has a bad meaning to most of us. But I think that the idealist who first advocated the concept felt that if only men were granted absolute liberty, and were compelled to obey no one, they would then voluntarily associate themselves in the common interest. A.A. is an association of the benign sort he envisioned.

But when we had to go into action — to function as groups — we discovered that we also had to become a democracy. As our oldtimers retired, we therefore began to elect our trusted servants by majority vote. Each group in this sense became town meeting. All plans for group action had to be approved by the majority. This meant that no single individual could appoint himself to act for his group or for A.A. as a whole. Neither dictatorship nor paternalism was for us.

### 2007 Steering Board

<b><u>Chair:</u></b>	<b>Jeff T.</b>
<b><u>Alt. Chair:</u></b>	<b>Tom S.</b>
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b>Lesli D.</b>
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	<b>Mary Jo N.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2007:</u></b>	<b>Louis C. and Jason V.</b>
<b><u>Members at Large 2006:</u></b>	<b>Alfred K. and Roxi S.</b>
<b><u>Advisor to the Board:</u></b>	<b>Marty M.</b>
<b><u>Office Manager:</u></b>	<b>Tom N.</b>

### Office Calls in December\*

Meeting information	169
Inventory hours	33
12th step calls	18
Temporary sponsor	18
Speaker request	20
Special events	9
Outside issues	35
Info for Professionals	0
Administrative	41
Other	40
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>Daily average</b>	<b>19.2</b>
Visitors	93

*\*Call tally is for calls taken during office hours only and does not*

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**St. Paul AA Intergroup Representatives Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

The primary purpose of Intergroup was read.

In attendance: Eric H (West End), Kristin Y (Basic Text), Julie M (Night Owl), Charlie S (Roseville Sunday Night), Greg M (O.M.D.), Dianne, Mark K (Uptown), John C, Mike D, Suzanne B (Mendota Saturday 10:30), Barb D (White Bear Lake - St. John's), Kim T (Amigos III), Bonnie R (Happy Hour Mahtomedi), Kurt N (Happy Joyous and Free), Louie C (2007 Board), Richard U (Midway), David A (Rosemount AA), Noah N (House of Hope), Jonathan L (Webservant), Val L (Back to Basics), Brandon F (Men's Happy Hour - St. Paul), Jon C (3rd Edition), Ken D (S.O.S), Mary Jo N (Treasurer), Roxi S (Board), Tom N (Office Manager), Marty M (Board), Jeff T (Board), Tom S (Board).

The November minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Contributions for November were well above the budgeted amount. Group, Faithful Fivers, and Special Contributions totaled \$8,900 – 68.6% of Income. Sales were \$4,072 (31.4% of Income) were slightly under the budgeted amount. Group contributions \$5,407 – 559 meetings listed on website 30 Groups Contributed for November, and 155 for 2006. Although office sales through November are slightly below budget, Cost of Goods Sold is down even more leaving us with a greater Gross Profit. Expenses through November are slightly over budget due to turnover/training of staff, Accounting fees (due to change of Accounting Service), and the error in Yellow Page Advertising (previously being paid by MPLS Intergroup). Group Contributions through November are greater than budgeted. Thanks to All. This is a trend we would love to see continue.

**The Office Report:** Tom delivered the office report for December. He announced the brief closings over the holidays, purchased new phones for the office, and announced that the database of volunteer speakers is being made electronic. Intergroup is also looking at new ways to raise funds in the coming year.

**Website Report:** Jonathan presented the November Website Report. He continues to fine-tune the webpage for best performance, has added and amended several of the area meetings, and altered the meeting search page. Website usage has been inconsistent but still seems to be growing steadily.

**Outreach:** Tom S presented the November Outreach report.

**Night Owl Report:** Julie M presented the September night owl report. Only 1 shift remains open. Dianne will be promoted to Night Owl Coordinator at the end of the year and will need a new co-coordinator. January 20 is Night Owl Appreciation day.

**Upcoming Events:**


**New Years' Eve – Marty M.** December 31—Four groups have signed up to chair the marathon meetings at New years. They are Como Park Big Book; Happy, Joyous, & Free; Uptown Club; and West End.

**Old Business:****New Business:**

**ASL** – We hired an American Sign Language interpreter for the one deaf member of the main body meeting, but the expense is high and we can not continue doing this without that delegate's committed attendance.

**Bylaws** – Marty M, our chair, will be forming a Bylaws committee. Intergroup's bylaws are outdated and need to be refreshed. People with 5+ years of sobriety are invited to participate. Old changes that were

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<p align="center"><b>7th Tradition Suggestions for Groups</b></p> <p>“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”</p> <p>Your group can make an informed decision regarding contributions with information from A.A. World Services. The information below is a suggestion taken from the pamphlet: “Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix.”</p> <p><b>50% <u>St. Paul Intergroup</u></b> Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Ave. #407 St. Paul, MN 55104</p> <p><b>30% <u>General Service Office</u></b> P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p><b>10% <u>Southern MN Area 36</u></b> Area Assembly P.O. Box 2812 Mpls., MN 55402</p> <p><b>10% <u>District Committee</u></b> Ramsey County: District 8, P.O. Box 2267 St. Paul, MN 55102</p> <p>Dakota County: District 19, P.O. Box 1466 Burnsville, MN 55337</p> <p>Washington County: District 15, P.O. Box 181 Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p> <p>SE Ramsey County: District 26, P.O. Box 75980 St. Paul, MN 55175</p>	<p align="center"><b>BE A NIGHT OWL !!</b></p> <p>Night Owls are often the first AA contact for the newcomer! A Night Owl shift is a once-a-month commitment to answer Intergroup phones after hours. Some shifts can be done in the office; all can be done from home. The commitment can be filled by an individual or a group. <b>If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: <a href="http://www.aastpaul.org">www.aastpaul.org</a></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>District Meetings</u></b></p> <p><b>District 8 (Ramsey Co.)</b> Fairview Community Center 1910 Co. Rd B, Rm 203, Roseville 3rd Wed., 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>District 15 (Wash. Co.)</b> Christ Lutheran Church 11194 N. 36th St., Lake Elmo 4th Mon., 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>District 19 (Dakota Co.)</b> Rosemount Community Center 13885 South Robert Trail 2nd Wed., 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>District 26 (SE Ramsey Co.)</b> 1099 Payne Ave. St. Paul 2nd Fri., 6:00 PM <a href="http://www.district26-area36.org">www.district26-area36.org</a></p> <p align="center"><b>Thanks to all the terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during December!</b></p> <p>A.J., Andy B., Ann, Barbara, Bob, Brigham M., Donald, Donna, Ed M., Eliot, Erik, Erin, Frank D., Gary, Gil J., Jack R., Jim H., Kat K., Krista, Larry T., Lynette, Mike A., Val L.</p> <p>Thanks to all the Night Owl volunteers and groups as well!</p> 	<p align="center"><b>INTERGROUP INCOME FOR DECEMBER</b></p> <p>Number Group Contributions: 37 Total Group Contributions: \$4,947.28 Number of Faithful Fivers: 15 Total from Faithful Fivers: \$240.00 Special Contributions: \$1143.28</p> <p align="center"><b>“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in December:</b></p> <p>11 West Bernard AA Amigo's III Apple Valley Big Book Apple Valley Friday Night AA Club 84 AA Como Park Big Book Study Cottage Grove AA Dakota Alano Thursday 11:45 AM Fellowship AA Hastings Club Highland Park AA Hugo AA Main Idea AA Maplewood AA Merriam Park AA Midway AA New Brighton Alano No Time Like the Present North Branch Community Groups North Dale AA North Hamline AA P.O.P. Pages of Wisdom BB Peace &amp; Serenity AA Rivertown Big Book AA St. Croix Valley AA St. John's Little Canada St. Paul Open Speakers Mtg. St. Paul Park AA Third Tradition Group Unity Service Recovery Eagan AA Uptown AA Valley Creek Monday AA White Bear Groups Women's 12 by 12 Monday</p>
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**The Lifeline: Purpose Statement**

*The Lifeline* is a monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Intergroup. (Exception: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.; The A.A. Preamble is reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) We welcome articles of opinion or descriptions of personal experience, which should be sent to Lifeline Editor, St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue #407, St. Paul MN 55104. Materials or articles cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Intergroup reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, language, length and contents that may violate A.A.'s Traditions, etc. The deadline is the 2nd of the preceding month.

# ST. PAUL AA INTERGROUP UPCOMING EVENTS!!

## Area 36 Committee Meetings

February 10, 2007  
Best Western, Mankato, MN

Area Standing Committees Meet 9:30am—11:30am

Area Committee Meeting 1:00pm—5:00pm

[www.area36.org](http://www.area36.org)

## 43rd International A.A. Women's Conference

February 15-18, 2007  
Detroit Marriott—Renaissance Center  
Detroit Michigan 48243  
[www.iaawc.org](http://www.iaawc.org)

## Third Annual \*BIG OLE ROUNDUP\*

“Let Go and Let God”

March 16-18, 2007  
Alexandria, MN—The Heart of the Lakes Area  
Holiday INN Alexandria, Just South of I-94

March 30, 31 & April 1, 2007  
20th Anniversary  
**Aim For Ames Roundup**  
“Follow the Path”  
to be held at the  
Quality Inn & Suites—East 13th St. and I-35

## St. Paul AA Intergroup—Spring Traditions Workshop

Saturday March 17th, 10AM

A Panel Presentation on Tradition Two

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 Dale St. North, just south of I-94.

## Vintage Cartoons from the AA Grapevine

from the October, 1958 issue, reprinted with permission.



“See I told you—we’re supposed to speak at Bethlehem Pennsylvania!”

## Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

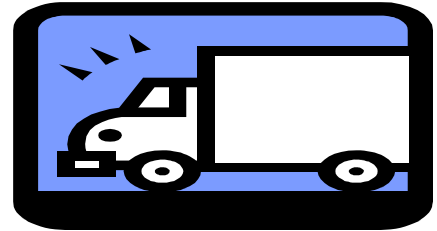
The February Representatives' meeting will be held February 20, 7:30 pm,  
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.  
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

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 five dollars to St. Paul Intergroup each month to enable us to continue to carry our life-saving message. Your contribution entitles you to a one-year subscription to the *Lifeline*. You may also contribute annually, quarterly, etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and a check to:**

St. Paul Intergroup, 1600 University Avenue W. #407, St. Paul MN 55104