



Step 6: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

This month's Step Six essay comes from the book "Spiritual Awakenings, Journeys of the Spirit from the Pages of the AA Grapevine," pp. 147-148, reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine®, Inc.

A Moment of Silence

The Hocking Hills region of southeastern Ohio has long been a source of emotional grounding for me, a place of introspection and wonder, discovery and rediscovery. While scrambling along its ancient ridge tops and exploring its rocky hollows, I have known moments of such complete joy that I've been left breathless and dazed.

It is there that I chose to take my Sixth and Seventh Steps. Reflecting on the gravity of the occasion, my sponsor recommended that I find a place that would offer few distractions. I decided I would camp overnight and find a secluded hollow within the Hocking Hills State Park. (I should mention that my wife, Annette, has always supported everything AA-related.) After a three-hour drive to the area, I found a campsite, and that evening I prepared for the next day by reading the Big Book and reviewing my moral inventory.

The next morning I loaded my pack with a couple of water bottles, my Big Book, and topographic map of the area. When I started walking, I had a good idea where I was going. There was certain remote valley containing a series of hollows that I'd been aching to explore I've always enjoyed finding and exploring places well off the beaten path.

I hiked to the stream that carved the valley and followed it until I came to a smaller stream draining into it. That stream led into cool hollow that ended at the base of a high-walled cliff. A narrow falls leapt from the lip of a recessed cave in the cliff wall. The most striking feature of this place was the sand that had piled up in the mouth of the cave behind the waterfall. My map didn't list a name for this place, so I dubbed it Sand Castle Hollow.

~ continued on the following page ~

ST. PAUL INTERGROUP OPEN HOUSE !!



Saturday, June 9, 11:00 AM to 3PM

Spruce Tree Centre - Top Floor of Parking Ramp
1600 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55104



Join us for food, fellowship and fun!!

St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

Web Site: www.aastpaul.org

E-mail: 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

~ A Moment of Silence, continued from the preceding page ~

After climbing high up to the cave and going in, I knelt in the sand, looking through the falls out into the hollow, and I prayed. I hadn't prayed in a very long time, and never like this. I have no idea how long I was up there. I was in God's presence and I exposed to him my heart and soul. I talked, confessed, laughed, cried, and sang to my God. I gave thanks for my sobriety, my family, and all my blessings, and then I asked that my character defects be removed. Through all of this, the hollow was filled with the sun's warmth and light, a gentle breeze came through the trees, and the water fell freely through the sunlight to splash on the rocks at the falls base.

I don't know how long the falls paused that morning, but it had a profound effect on me. I reasoned that the water above the falls was a temporarily damned by autumn leaves. That wasn't a miracle. The miracle was that I was there to experience it. I had been quiet and absorbed in my world long enough to actually notice, with all of my senses, something as simple and sublime as the effects of a leaf jam on a little stream. God knew I was there, and he told me so.

I return to this place at least once a year. I don't expect the water to stop falling again, but I like to go back to Sand Castle Hollow and reflect on how my life has changed. And I thank God.

Dennis G.
Toledo, Ohio, August 2001

The Twelve Concepts: Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“We have seen that the ‘final responsibility and ultimate authority’ for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. Groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must *delegate* to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the Trustees must have.”

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

2007 Steering Board

<u>Chair:</u>	Jeff T.
<u>Alt. Chair:</u>	Tom S.
<u>Secretary:</u>	Lesli D.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mary Jo N.
<u>Members at Large 2007:</u>	Alfred K. and Roxi S.
<u>Members at Large 2008:</u>	Jason V. and Jeff H.
<u>Advisor to the Board:</u>	Marty M.
<u>Office Manager:</u>	Tom N.

Office Calls in April

Meeting information	238
Inventory hours	28
12th step calls	20
Temporary sponsor	7
Speaker request	13
Special events	3
Outside issues	30
Info for Professionals	6
Administrative	85
Other	43
Total Calls	473
Daily average	22.5
Visitors	166

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

Saint Paul AA Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2007

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 (see attendees below)
- II. The Primary Purpose of Intergroup was read by Lee B.
- III. March 20, 2007 minutes were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – March Contributions (Group, Faithful Fivers, and Special) \$5,395 – 52.7% of Income. Contributions were greater than budget. Thanks to All. March Sales \$4,855 (47.3% of Income) were slightly above the budgeted amount. Thanks to all for purchasing literature from Intergroup, it is another way of supporting Intergroup. Group contributions \$4,746– 562 meetings listed on website (45 Groups Contributed in March). Expenses for March were below budget. A partial payment to Accountants was budgeted but not paid. March has historically been a month with a loss and this year we have not followed this trend.
- V. **Office Report** -- Tom N. a) Yellow Page 'proof' was presented; b) St. Paul Intergroup is responsible for Literature sales at Gopher State, any interested volunteers should contact the office; c) Samples of AA literature were distributed; d) Reminder that anyone interested in volunteering – please fill out a 'volunteer sheet' and bring them to your groups.
- VI. **Website Report** – Jonathan. Website activity is UP; Announcements & Events pages updated so will be on every page when browsing the site.
- VII. **Outreach Program** – Lee B. filled in for Alfred K. Committee is working on visiting all groups in our area; Goal is to spread the message of Intergroup and encourage participation; Looking at Latino and native American meetings.
- VIII. **Night Owl Report** – Diane & Patti S. There are many open shifts; please sign up as the backup list is low. Orientations are 3rd Sat of the month – call the office for details or email nightowl@aastpaul.org.
- IX. **Upcoming Events.**
- Spring Fling, April 28th. Mary Jo, chair. AA & Alanon speakers lined up; ASL interpreter will be there; Dance after the meeting(s).
 - Open House / Grill Out, June 9th. Marty M., chair. Great opportunity to visit the office, see what's available; fellowship, hot dogs on the 'roof' at the Intergroup office.
- X. **Old Business.** None
- XI. **New Business.** None
- XII. **Group Announcements or Concerns.** Gopher state will have 1 room available for non-English meetings—visit their website for more details; two new deaf groups opening in Minneapolis—Jonathan will post these on our website; For misc events going on, remember to email this info to webservant@aastpaul.org to spread the word!
- XIII. **Concept Review (IV)** -- Thanks to Lee B. for presenting Concept IV – great job!

Suzanne B-Mendota Sat.	Kim T-Amigos III Stillwater	Jon C. - 3 rd Edition	Betty S.-Peace/Serenity
Brandon F – Men's Happy Hour	Diane E – NightOwl Profound Alterations	Lisa L.-No Time Like the Present	Richard U – Deaf Spirit Fellowship
Jonathan-webservant	Joe S.-Happy, Joyous, Free	Lee B.-Como BB	Phil C-So. St. Paul
Jim H-So. St. Paul	Patti S.-Night Owl	Pat C.- Fireside Women's	Brooklyn (John)– W End
Peter J-House of Hope	Dan W-Cottage Grove AA	Kristin Y – Basic Text	Jim N.-BTB
John F.-Highland Sat Step	Jeff H- Board	Cookie J–Macalester/Ply.	Val L-Back to Basic
Mary Jo N – Board	Christine-Maplewood	Jeff T – Board	Lesli D – Board
Tom N – IG Office/Board	Rey H-Defogged Men's	Brad T – Midway Club	Greg M - OMD

7th Tradition Suggestions for Groups

“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% 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

BE A NIGHT OWL !!

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. **If you can help, call Matt at the office or go to our website: www.aastpaul.org**

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 terrific volunteers who helped in the Office during April!

Andy, Frank, Jack, Eliot, Brigham, Kevin, Val, Rob, David, Donald, Lynette, Nicole, Bob, Deb, John, Paul, Chris, Russ & Larry.

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



INTERGROUP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL

Number Group Contributions: 38
Total Group Contributions: \$3779.30
Number of Faithful Fivers: 16
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$604.00

“Thanks!” to the groups that contributed in April:

- Third Tradition Northfield**
- Como Park Big Book**
- Mendota Saturday 9AM**
- Fourth Dimension**
- Twelve Step Happy Hour Fellowship AA**
- Burnsville, Eagan, Savage—Sunday 8PM**
- Rivertown AA**
- Midway Club**
- New Brighton Alano Squad 14**
- Shalom Group**
- St. Stephen’s Friday Women’s Highland Park AA**
- Just For Today Women’s Meeting of the Waters**
- Spiritual Traditions**
- North Hamline**
- Back to Basics—Burnsville**
- Club 84 Inver Grove Heights**
- New Brighton Alano**
- White Bear Lake**
- Applied Serenity 101**
- Thursday Night Lake Elmo Uptown Club**
- Downtown Alano Squad 7**
- Live and Let Live**
- Profound Alteration**
- East Side Squad 6**
- Basic Text Women’s Group**
- Weekend Jumpstart**
- Peace & Serenity Group**
- Ridge Runners II**
- Amigos III**
- Happy, Joyous and Free**
- Third Edition AA Group**
- As Bill Sees It**
- White Bear Wednesday AM**
- Shoreview Big Book Plus**

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!!

St. Paul Intergroup Open House

Spruce Tree Centre - Top Floor of Parking Ramp
1600 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Saturday, June 9, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Minneapolis Intergroup Workshop Our 12th Step Responsibility - Are we going to any length?

Saturday June 9, 2007
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Union Congregational Church
3700 Alabama Ave, St. Louis Park, 55416

Twin Cities Round-Up for LGBT and friends

June 15, 16 & 17, 2007
Van Cleve Recreation Center
901 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis

www.twincitiesroundup.com

Southern MN Area Assembly

Best Western Victorian Inn, Hutchinson, MN
Saturday, 23 June 2007
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

www.area36.org

Maiden Rock Campout 2007

June 15th, 16th, and 17th

Maiden Rock Legion State Park

WI Highway 35 South of Prescott (35 mi.)

AA Summerfest

June 16, 2007

Food • Music • Prizes

Squad 11 Downtown Alano
520 N Robert Street

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

"It occurred to us that we could take what we had into the factories and cause laborers and capitalist to love each other. Our uncompromising honesty might soon clean up politics. With one arm around the shoulder of religion and the other around the shoulder of medicine, we'd resolve their differences. Having learned to live so happily, we'd show everybody else how. Why, we thought, our Society of Alcoholics Anonymous might prove to be the spearhead of a new spiritual advance! We might transform the world.

"Yes, we of A.A. did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout."

--from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," p. 156.

Reprinted with permission from AA World Services Inc.

Is your meeting represented at Intergroup?

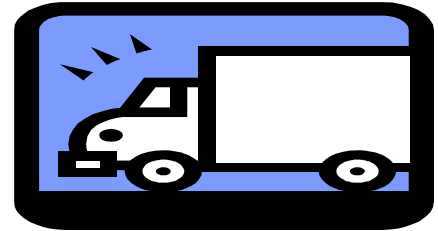
The June Representatives' meeting will be held June 19, 7:30 pm,
at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St., St. Paul, 55103.
The church is located just south of I-94; from Dale turn west on Iglehart to park.

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

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, 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 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