

The Lifeline



DECEMBER 2015

24 Hour Phone: 651-227-5502

Volume 51, Issue 12

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.

I love jail—the kind where I bring an AA meeting and then get to leave afterward. Last night I went to the small county jail where a few of us bring a meeting. I was the only one able to attend from the outside. The officer said I could expect at least one woman. Well, five showed up and that, my friend, was a record. The women ranged in age from 18 to 49, some with no children, some with as many as seven children, and expressed various degrees of willingness. Listening to their stories, I was reminded of where I had been and where I will go if I drink again.

Recently, my sponsor was reminding me that my job as a sponsor (and I can generalize this to Twelfth Step work) is to share my experience, period. The end result is that I stay sober, no matter what happens to the other person. I do hope all five women stay sober but the one thing I knew for sure, leaving that jail last night, was that I had some more insurance against a drink.

I know jail work may not be for everyone, but it is definitely my passion in AA. It seems impossible to adequately convey how I felt on the drive home, but I know a large part of it was closeness to my Higher power. Sometimes the path is unclear, but when I am carrying the message (and not expecting anything in return) that is when I feel closest to God—full of joy, peace, gratitude and a whole lot of willingness to go to any lengths to stay sober.

- ARIANA P., Lawrence, Kan.

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

BREAKING another person's anonymity has never been my problem. My problem with anonymity has been about breaking my own private and personal anonymity. It is a boundary issue, like abstinence. It is a line that today I do not cross except with my family, friends in AA, and close friends outside our Fellowship.

Thinking things through has not been a strong point with me. My alcoholic way of thinking seems to take over. Today this is slowly changing. Now I try to see the consequences of my actions. I am called to remember the slogan often seen on the walls of AA meeting places -- "Think, Think, Think."

My journey with AA began on Sept. 9, 1986, and after three-and-a-half years, AA helped me recover my call into the Christian ministry. I returned in 1990 and was appointed to serve two Methodist churches. However, before being appointed to serve a church I was questioned by my superiors as to what I'd say if I were seen by a parishioner going to an AA meeting. At the time, not being clear about the importance of personal and private anonymity or my role as a clergyperson, and wanting to be open and honest, I said I would simply tell the person who asked that "I am an alcoholic and by the grace of God I'm sober today." These days I would give a different answer and not break my anonymity.

But at that time I went into the pulpit and broke my own anonymity in a sermon. I was proud and excited about my sobriety and being back in my role as a pastor, and wanted people to know about it and what Alcoholics Anonymous had done. I regret having done that because I did not think through the consequences of this action ("Think, Think, Think") or about the people who might be suffering from alcohol abuse at the time. In most churches, regardless of the denomination, there are usually some who have either suffered alcohol abuse firsthand, know of someone who has, or are in denial about it.

Breaking my own anonymity had negative and positive results. A few came forth wanting more information, such as meeting dates and times. Others, who apparently looked upon clergy expecting perfect behavior rather than another human being, saw this admission as a sign of weakness and so caused difficulties for me as their pastor.

Today I happily attend two to three meetings each week, and outside of AA it is no one's business that I am an alcoholic. This boundary I seldom cross. I am anonymous.

- Bill R., Salisbury, NC

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St. Paul Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous®

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

1600 University Avenue, W. Suite 214, St. Paul MN 55104

Notes From your Board...

December can be a time to reflect and consider how we fulfill Intergroup's Primary Purpose, which is to assist the AA Groups of the St. Paul & Suburban area in carrying the AA message to those who suffer from alcoholism. Intergroup does so by being responsible to the Member Groups to observe the practice and spirit of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts for World Service, as well as the 3 Legacies of Unity Recovery and Service. This year we note that Intergroup is now responsible to 283 groups hosting 689 meetings. We are grateful to have grown from the 13 groups hosting 45 meetings in 1966 when Intergroup was incorporated.

Step Twelve asks us to share our spiritual awakening through service and laboring without worrying about tomorrow. Tradition Twelve speaks to the principle of anonymity. These principles taken together inform the work that Intergroup does on behalf of the area's groups. Please note that of the 283 groups there were 17 groups and 2 Districts registered in attendance at the October Intergroup Representatives meeting. We need your help! So please prayerfully consider how your group can help assure that Intergroup is fulfilling its Primary Purpose. We are in need of not only Group Representatives but also need volunteers to take Night Owl shifts or help out in the office.

We will have a newly elected Board for the coming year and eagerly anticipate the experience, strength and hope that the new board members will share. Next year St. Paul Intergroup will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, so please stay tuned for upcoming announcements. Finally, we recognize that change often comes unanticipated. As such, we send our thoughts and prayers to our fellows of the Downtown Alano Club, the Main Idea and Grupo Latino groups, as well as some smaller groups and other Twelve Step fellowships comprising the over 50 meetings each week that have been displaced by the recent roof collapse.

Scott L., Board Secretary

Notes From your Central Office...

The recent interruption of meetings occurring at our Downtown Alano club reminds us of something that happened in our Fellowship in another area of the country a while ago.

When Hurricane Sandy struck the New York City area a few years ago, it brought particular damage to communities along the coasts of Long Island and Staten Island. Flooding and other damage to buildings, was widespread in these areas, and a number of AA groups and clubs were affected across this wide and well populated area. Our local group wanted to know where they could send some of their money so that it might help.

One of our St. Paul area AA groups contacted us and asked how they might be able to help some of these New York area groups. On their behalf, we contacted some Intergroup and District service committees for information about this. Without exception, we received the same sort of answer from everyone we contacted. All of them answered that the affected groups were all trying to get things put back together with their own resources, as they believed the 7th Tradition suggested.

Since the Downtown Alano has closed—temporarily, we trust (see page 3) —our office has again been getting inquiries from AA members in our area how they may be able to help with money, labor and even building materials. We feel assured that our Fellowship will join hands to assure the continuation of a Club that has served our area since 1945.

- Thanks St. Paul Area AA!

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 October 2015

Meeting information	105
Inventory/hours	38
12th Step calls	4
Temporary sponsor	32
Speaker request	32
Special events	4
Outside issues	23
Info for professionals	2
Administrative	72
Other	44
Total Calls	356
Daily average	16.2
Visitors	251

UPCOMING A.A. EVENTS!!

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Area Committee Meetings

Best Western
North Mankato, MN

Saturday, December 5th - 9:30 AM—5:30PM

For more Info: www.area36.org

13th Annual

Wild Rice Roundup

“Lose Your Winter Blues”

Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center
Mahnomon, MN

Friday, January 8th - Sunday, January 10th, 2016

Group and Area News

Club Closure: On November 11, part of the roof at the Downtown Alano collapsed. The building has been closed since, and the 60 AA meetings held there every week have been displaced. The timetable for re-opening the building is not yet known as we write this.

In the meantime, some of the displaced meetings are being held at Key's Café, 504 N. Robert Street, while the groups look for more suitable temporary alternatives. The **Main Idea** groups found temporary quarters at the Old Assumption School Building on 68 West Exchange in downtown St. Paul & will continue with their regular schedule.

This situation may be “in flux” for some time to come, and we will try to post updates on our web page, www.aastpaul.org, as they become available.

New Meeting: *The St. Anne's AA Group* added a second meeting Mondays 1:00PM at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church, 2035 Charlton Road, Sunfish Lake, MN 55118. The meeting is Closed, Mixed, All-Ages, with a Topic & Discussion format.

New Meeting: *The Optimist Crew Group* added a second meeting Tuesdays 12-Noon at the Recovery Church, 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. The meeting is Closed, Mixed, All-Ages, with a Topic Discussion format.

Closed Meeting: *The Twelve Steppers* group on St. Paul's east side has disbanded.

Southern Minnesota Area 36 Recovery, Unity & Service Conference “Our Spiritual Way Of Life”

DoubleTree—Park Place
1500 Park Place Blvd. - St. Louis Park, MN
Friday, January 15th - Sunday 17th, 2016

For more info: www.area36.org

2nd Annual

Rule 62 Rendezvous

Baymont Inn & Suites Mandan
Bismarck, North Dakota

Friday, January 15th - Sunday 17th, 2016

For more info: www.rule62rendezvous.org/

Fourth Step & Big Book Workshops

By The Book 4th Step Workshop

Wednesdays,

~6:30PM - 7:45PM ~

2218 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

For more info: www.aabythebook.org

Your News?

We invite you to share your AA news here!
Please send your items to lifeline@aastpaul.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Join St. Paul A.A. Intergroup in a Sober Celebration!!

7:00 PM - Speaker

Meeting
Patrick B.


Shoulder to Shoulder,
Minneapolis

New Year's Eve 2015

Thursday, December 31st



7:00 PM - Midnight
Marathon Step Meetings

 ASL Interpreted

Recovery Church
253 State Street
St. Paul, MN 55107



9:00 PM - Dance!!

“The Ramshackle Charmers”

Live Band

(\$5 Contribution - all welcomed)



St. Paul Area Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes October 20th, 2015

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

Minutes from last month were reviewed and approved, John motioned and Muggsy seconded.

Treasurer's Report, John M gave the treasurer's report. Bank account total is \$22,892 and prudent reserve is \$45,005.

Total contributions are up. Overall, net income of \$3,170. Contact John M at treasurer@aastpaul.org

The Office Report, literature and medallions sales are very strong. Received 1 service resume for Board Elections. Need of ideas for service opportunities for members of a Spanish-speaking AA meeting on the Eastside. Attended annual Intergroup seminar last month for workshops/presentations by other offices, resulting in a deep sense of gratitude for greater St. Paul area's groups, members and volunteers. The AA Grapevine's new book entitled *Forming True Partnerships* is now in stock and costs \$12 tax included. 31 groups and 20 individual Faithful Fivers contributed to St. Paul Intergroup. Email Lifeline humor section content to lifeline@aastpaul.org. Contact Frank N at manager@aastpaul.org

The Website Report, 689 meetings/283 groups, up 1 meeting/1 group. Need volunteers for website programming. Need meeting directory field verifiers. 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, Sandy K, nominations open for upcoming Board elections are next month for Alt Chair, Alt.

Treasurer, 2 Members-at-large and Secretary

Night Owl Report, Leslie D, reminder to Groups to let Office or Leslie know of coordinator changes, Night Owl Orientation is every third Sa at 10 a.m. in the Office. See website for open shifts. Contact Leslie D at nightowl@aastpaul.org or Frank N at manager@aastpaul.org

Liaison Reports, District 8, Meghan K, no report, District 15, Julie H, 10/24 workshop Anonymity in Social Media, District 19, Dan R, 13 high schools/3 hospitals taking literature, service letter sent to treatment centers, 70 attended 10/3 workshop w/District 24 on Emotional Sobriety

Upcoming Intergroup Events, Gratitude Night, Sa 11/21, Mt. Zion Church, speakers Pat N and 1-year speaker, Founder's Day Weekend, 11/27-29, DoubleTree in St. Louis Park, MN, sign up sheet passed.

Old Business, Ad-hoc Location Committee, lease ends 4/2016, researching new locations

New Business, 2016 budget presented by John M, to be voted on in Dec.

Group AA Announcements, Firing Line Anniversary Dinner, Sa 10/24, New Life Presbyterian Church, 965 Larpenteur Ave W, speaker Pat B

Suggestions for next months's agenda, Terry H notes Night Owl policy on 12 Step calls refers callers under age 18 to call back during office hours and would like the Board to review policy and report back in Dec.

Grapevine Report, Peter, volunteer for Dec, Jestine M

Concept X, Alfred, Concept XI volunteer for Dec, Paul T

Mock Rep Report, Joe W, volunteer for Dec, Shawn

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

ATTENDANCE:

Tim B., Board Chair	Sandy K., Alt. Chair	Scott L., Secretary	John M., Treasurer	Joe W., Alt. Treasurer	Hillary B., Member at Large
Paul T., Member at Large	Mike C., Member at Large	Jestine M., Member at Large	Frank N., Office Manager	Jonathan L, Web- servant	Mike S., Basic Text
Stephanie H., Como Park BB	Julie H., District 15	Dan R., District 19	Catherine K., Fire- side Women's Grp.	Terry H., The Firing Line	John K., Gratitude in Action
Muggsy A., Hole in the Dough- nut	Alfred K., Main Idea	Matt R., Main Idea	Shawn Y., Maple- wood Groups	James D., New Brighton Big Book	Paul W., OMD
Kalene M., Pocketing Our Pride	Kyle H., Problem & Solution	Tony A., Rule 62	Gentry S., Third Edition BB	Peter O., Up In Smoke	Michael C., Uptown Groups

December MEETING: Tuesday the 15th, 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. #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

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors: 40
Total Group Contributions: \$5215
Number of Faithful Fivers: 21
Total from Faithful Fivers: \$563

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 October**

Bob B., Burt K.,
Chris H., Dan E.,
Eric B., Frank D., Henry O.,
Haley T., James H.,
Jason S., Jessica W.,
Jim C., Karl G.,
Keelan B., Mary F.,
Mike B., Steve W.,
Suzanne B., Ty

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



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

- Anoka Day By Day
- Apple Valley Monday BB
- Baffled Lot - Lake Elmo
- CRC Friends of Bill W.
- Dakota AA Sat. AM
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Defogged Men's Group
- Fireside Women's BB Group
- Forest Lake Alano
- Highland Park Groups
- Highway 96er's Group
- Hugo Group
- Inver Grove Heights Club 84
- Lake Elmo Thurs Night Group
- Lakeland Group
- Lakeville Mon. Night Hope Group
- Little Canada Wednesday Night
- Main Idea
- Maplewood Groups
- Meeting of the Waters
- North Dale Group
- Pocketing Our Pride
- Ridge Runners III Sun 830AM
- Rivertown BB Group-Hastings
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- SOS - Sharing Our Serenity - Afton
- Stepsisters of Northfield
- Stillwater Rivertown Group Sun PM
- Third Edition Group
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Three R's group
- Transfiguration Group
- Una Luz en el Camino
- Up In Smoke
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Lake Redeemer
- Woodbury Primary Purpose

The Lifeline: Purpose Statement

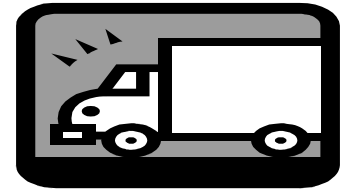
The Lifeline is the monthly newsletter of the St. Paul and Suburban Area Intergroup Association office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by, and for groups and members of the A.A. Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article 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 #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