



Step Four: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Don't take other people's inventory!" chides an AA sponsor to an AA sponsee, sometimes gently, sometimes fiercely. As champions at figuring out the faults of others, we alcoholics in recovery often have to be reminded to look at our side of the equation. "The inventory was ours, not the other man's," says the Big Book on page 67. On the other hand, it is a time-honored axiom that we often see the faults in others that we ourselves have, so perhaps when we take someone else's inventory, we are really taking our own. I decided to test out this proposition, with remarkably good results.

As an experiment, I decided to deliberately take the inventory of a fellow member of AA, then put my name on it. I wrote down exactly what bothered me about that person: he wore his religion on his sleeve, he thought he had practically invented AA, he talked endlessly about politics, even in meetings. My anger toward this person was exacerbated by the fact that his politics and religion were virtually the opposite of mine. I typed up a neat list of his defects of character on my computer. Then, I erased his name from the top of the list and typed in my own. I printed the list and carried it in my schedule book for two weeks, reading it daily. Each day, I saw my name above a list of his defects. The first few days, I told myself these were really his defects, not mine. But after four or five days of reading the list, some insights into my own behavior appeared. I saw that I also talked too much about religion and politics around the meetings and sometimes even in the course of my sharing at meetings. I had offended lots of people doing that, but I had always blamed them, saying to myself that they just didn't like me. I had not looked at how my own behavior might be the cause of their rebuffs and scorn. I saw that I also tended to pontificate at meetings, as if I were a very knowing old-timer who really knew how to work the program. By the end of the two-week period, I knew whose defects I had listed: my own.

More important than even the insight into my own character that this exercise provided, was the change in my relationship with that fellow AA member. Before starting the experiment, I could not be in the same room with him without feeling a great deal of rage. I often avoided his presence for that reason. However, I was involved in a new meeting that he had started, so it was actually necessary for me to interact with him on certain days of the week. During the course of the experiment, I suddenly lost my anger. I felt absolutely no emotion whatsoever toward this individual. I accepted him precisely as he was, neither approving nor disapproving. I was too busy concentrating on the list of defects, which I was beginning to own as mine. By the end of the two weeks, he had changed toward me as well, congratulating me on a fine sharing here, asking for my advice on something there, and generally being an all-around good fellow. It was truly miraculous.

Since that experiment was successful, I have tried the technique twice more when I found myself extremely angry with someone. It has worked just as well as the first time. In each case, I discovered some unpleasant truths about myself, was able to accept the other person without judgment, and made changes in my own behavior and attitudes that have greatly improved my growth in the life of the spirit.

- John B., San Jose, CA

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

A political science professor at the University of Missouri once said, "The reason that the Constitution of the United States has been so successful for more than 200 years is that it is so general and so flexible that people don't feel they have to change it every time they have an argument." I have come to believe that there might just be some of that flexibility in our Traditions, particularly Tradition Four.

Through the years I have learned to take arguments about the Traditions, or instances of using a given Tradition to support a personal position, with a little grain of salt. As Bill W. explains Rule 62 in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, let's not take ourselves too damn seriously.

I've learned to laugh just a little through the years because I have been around long enough now to hear some pretty good cases on both sides of any given controversy. I've heard the same Tradition used as support for arguments on both sides of the question.

This is the real beauty in the Traditions. They have survived intact, even more so than the U.S. Constitution, in spite of the many ways we as individuals have used and misused them on our AA travels.

Many other times I have heard an argument supported with one part of a Tradition while the second part is completely ignored. This phenomenon seems to occur quite often in Tradition Four: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."

Autonomy most often seems to be used as an argument to explain or defend why a group ought to do what a certain member wants it to do. It occurs to me that the framework that we build around autonomy is the same framework that we build around self, which the Big Book warns us we must get rid of if we are to expect a life of sobriety and serenity. In other words, we often use autonomy to get our way.

I remember a wise old-timer saying to me many years ago that the most important thing that we had to remember about our relations with each other in AA is Tradition One: that everything we do and say should have our common welfare uppermost in our minds and be in support of AA unity.

He went so far as to say that when a group sits down to discuss a given controversy and to have an informed group conscience, that everyone should have the right to know that the meeting is taking place and to say anything they want. But, he said, the group should not feel that it has to take a vote--usually, the group conscience just emerges. If a group is really striving for a group conscience, they won't even be talking about the controversy after a few minutes. They'll be discussing how each of them is so important to the other, and how much they would be willing to sacrifice of "their own way" to preserve the unity of the group.

And so it is with Tradition Four, I believe. It should not be used so much to strike home the point that a group can do anything it darned well wants to. It should also remind us to ask ourselves, in the context of all the Traditions: "Is this decision good for all the groups around us? Will we hurt someone? Are we helping the AA Fellowship as a whole?"

It just appears sometimes that our old habits of trying to concentrate on what makes us different still prevail over concentrating on what makes us similar, what will give us unity, and what will aid in the survival, growth, and well-being of the Fellowship.

It seems to me that the biggest part of AA's growth and success in its almost fifty-five years has been that it has clung firmly to its singleness of purpose, and has not tried to be all things for all people. Because of that, even though groups from different parts of the United States and Canada may have different local customs, they are still basically carrying the same and single message of AA recovery to the newcomer.

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

Through trial and error, we AAs have found two very important facts about ourselves and about Tradition Four. First, we have discovered that we must take responsibility for ourselves if we are to recover and have complete freedom, or autonomy within our groups. So we cannot use autonomy for selfish means.

Second, we must depend on each other or die alone. No heritage from our AA predecessors is so precious and so clear. We cannot look inward when we talk about autonomy. We must look always to the greater good. There is no one else who will care for the survival of the Fellowship if we do not. We know our own lives depend on the well-being of all the groups and all the members if the Fellowship and its members are to survive.

I believe any document, whether it's the Constitution or the Traditions of our Fellowship, which has survived all trials and remained for the common good of many people, is spiritual in its nature and its origins. Tradition Four exemplifies in its true meaning this spiritual foundation of our Society.

Taken in this context, all that we do and say should be for the good of the greatest number. The future of the Fellowship and our own futures depend on it.

- Richard B., Iselin, New Jersey

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Concept Four: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

This is an extremely simple principle to both understand and follow. Basically, it is saying that if I, my group, or some service body, asks someone to carry out a task for us—they get to have a voice and vote in the decision on what that action should be.

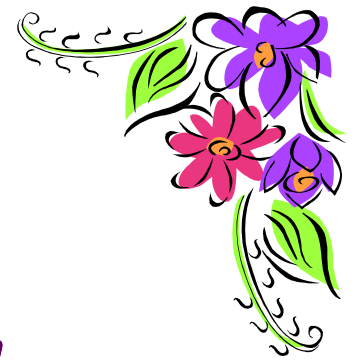
My favorite way to look at this is to recall that when my wife used to say, “honey, do want to take out the garbage?” – I would respond “OK,” and then not do it because it was not important to me. I just agreed to get her off my back. Then one day I tried a different tack. When asked the same question – I responded with “no I don’t want to – but I will.” And then went right out and took out the garbage. The difference, it seems to me, is that I was able to acknowledge the value both of us brought to the relationship. That is what I think this Concept is all about—valuing each other in our relationships.

-Anonymous

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.



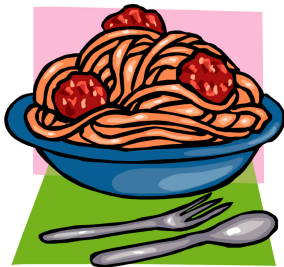
St. Paul Intergroup's annual

Spring Fling!

Saturday April 28th, 2018

NEW LOCATION

*Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 North Dale Street
(just south of 94)
Saint Paul, MN 55101*



6PM - Spaghetti Dinner

**7PM - Open Speaker Meeting
Christa W.
Hole in the Doughnut**



**8:30PM - LIVE BAND!
Featuring
"The Ramshackle Charmers"**

Contribution: \$10 Entire Evening, or \$7 Dinner Only, or \$5 Dance Only
~~No one turned away for lack of funds~~

For More Information Call 651-227-5502



ASL Interpreted, upon request.
Please contact Staff at St. Paul
Intergroup to make arrangements at
least 1 month ahead: 651-227-5502



Announcements & Updates

HOOTS!

March was a tough month with lots of open shifts. Yet - thanks to so many volunteers, all shifts were covered!

April Open Shifts:

1st Sat: 9:00am - 2:00pm

1st Mon: 10:00 overnight til 6 am

3rd Sat: 10:00 overnight til 9 am

4th Sat: 9:00am - 2:00pm

4th Tues: 10:00 overnight til 6 am

Night Owl Committee news:

Leslie K. and Frank N. are the two newest members of the Night Owl Committee. Frank N. will be taking over my role as the Night Owl Committee coordinator. Many of you will remember him from his years of service as a former Intergroup Manager.

Steve B. will be rotating off the committee at the end of this month. Thank you! For the last couple of years of dedicated service. I (Cheryl B.) will be rotating off the committee at the end of this month as well.

Reminders to all groups! Please let know if you get a new Night Owl Coordinator for you group so we are reminding the right person. Send e-mails to Frank N. at nightowl@aastpaul.org

I have greatly enjoyed this service opportunity over the last few years and it has been fun to get to know so many new people in our recovery community.

Cheryl B.
Night Owl Committee Coordinator

Night Owl Tidbit: Do you have an interesting Night Owl story you want to share? Send an e-mail to nightowl@aastpaul.org!

Group and Area News

New Meeting: Beginning March 1st, The Highland Park Groups is hosting a weekly Thursday 6:00 PM 12 & 12 Meeting. It is Closed, Mixed, All-Ages, and Accessible.

Virtual—Telephone Meeting: CrossTalk Group +1-712-415-0200

Every Sunday—Thursday 11PM (Midnight on East Coast) This is a free telephone call-in AA meeting recognized by both GSO and the Loaners International Homer Directory.

Archives Workshop: Saturday, April 14th, 2PM—Speaker: Carolyn B. Topic: A Historical Perspective. Break, followed by two workshops: How to Collect Oral Histories & How to Collect Group Histories. Location: West St. Paul Library, 199 Wentworth Ave E., St. Paul 55118. Please join afterward for a tour of the Area 36 Archives repository—open from 4:30 to 5:30PM.

Volunteers Needed!

Gopher State Roundup XLV will be held over Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27) at the Double Tree Bloomington. It take a incredible amount of work to make it the exciting spiritual weekend that it is. If you would like to become part of making it all happen, Sign-up electronically at gopherstateroundup.org.

Service opportunities include: Greeters, Ushers, Tickets, Registration, Chair "Room to Grow," Staff the Information Booth, Security, and AI-Anon.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Apr 15th, May 19th, Jun 16th

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, February 20th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. Last month minutes reviewed, motioned Jon C. and seconded by Steve B, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report, Madeline S. – Total Contributions: \$9,561 -- increase of \$4,107 due to quarterly Group Contributions. Office sales are in line with last month! Expenses: Increase in expenses because January is a 3 pay check month. Total Income and the Net Income: Expect fluctuation over the course of the year. See Treasurer's Report for full financial details.
4. Office Report, Bill S – Volunteer/Group Registration Forms now available in the Lifeline! Please note the 12-Step Speaker list was modified – removed "MIA" volunteers from the list. There is always a "golden opportunity" for service work at Intergroup. (52 speaking commitments a month!) District 27 formed a phone line that will provide help to those who speak Spanish as their primary language. Please email lifeline@aastpaul.org for further information.
5. Night Owl Report, Cheryl B – Currently 6 members on the N.O. committee and 5 N.O. shifts open. Please contact Cheryl at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the Intergroup Office.
6. Website Report, Jonathan L – 708 regular weekly meetings (up 5) supported by 286 groups in the area served by Intergroup. 14 service opportunities available. Pages per visitor were highest since March 2013 – high numbers mean people are engaging in the website! 50 -60% of our activity is made via Mobile devices. Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webservant@aastpaul.org.
7. Outreach Program, Carolyn M – There are 2 "MIA" meetings on the list. Please contact Carolyn M at outreach@aastpaul.org.
8. Update from the Board, Rob – The 2018 Intergroup Events are listed in the Lifeline
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C – AA billboards were displayed in buses and trains during the Super Bowl weekend and the campaign may be extended. The Area Assembly was held on Feb 17th in Mankato, the Proposed 2018 Budget was passed. District 15: Bob Z – Spring Workshop: 3rd Legacy on Saturday, March 17th from 11:30-2:00 pm located at Christ Lutheran Church 11194 36th St N, Lake Elmo. District 19: Dan R – February 10th Trusted Leadership Training in Rosemount. There is a possibility that there will be a new position: Committee Chair for Achieve. Outreach is continuing contact and working with High Schools, Medical Facilities, Jails, etc.
10. Upcoming Intergroup Events: Spring Fling: Saturday, April 28th located @ Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 285 Dale St N, St. Paul.
11. Old Business:
 - a. N/A
12. New Business:
 - a. Gopher State, Stephanie – May 25- May 27 Early Bird Special: \$99 a night. There are 45 rooms ready to be filled.
13. Group AA Announcements:
 - a. OMD Potluck, Sobriety Recognition, & Speaker meeting - 1st Friday: 03/02 @7:00 pm in the NEW LOCATION: 550 W 7th St., Saint Paul. Speaker TBD.
 - b. Main Idea Sobriety Recognition: 2nd Friday: 03/09 7:30:9:00 pm located @ 499 Wacouta Street, St Paul.
 - c. Happy, Joyous, and Free: Orientation for visiting Washington County Jail on Monday, March 12th from 6-9 am located @ 15015 62nd St. N, Stillwater.
14. Suggestions for next month's agenda: N/A
15. Grapevine Report, Jenni S; Volunteer for March, Lindsey D
16. Concept XII review, Dan R; Volunteer for Concept XII for March, Tom S
17. Mock Rep Report, Lesli D; Volunteer for March, Felicia C
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8; District 15, District 19; Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; The Firing Line, Roseville; Happy, Joyous & Free, Mahtomedi; Hole In The Doughnut, Roseville; Look To This Day, St. Paul; Main Idea, St. Paul; Maplewood Alano, Maplewood; No Time Like the Present; Roseville; Outright Mental Defectives, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Problems & Solutions, St. Paul; Rule 62, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Third Edition, St. Paul, Women's Basic Text, St. Paul .

<u>2018 Steering Board:</u>		<u>Office Calls/Visitors—February 2018</u>	
Chair:	Lesli D.	Meeting information	77
Alternate Chair:	Rob C.	Inventory/hours/location	29
Secretary:	Carolyn M.	12th Step calls	3
Treasurer:	C.J. M.	Temporary sponsor	8
Alternate Treasurer:	Madeline S.	Speaker request	39
Members-at-Large 2018:	Tom S. & Erik M.	Staff & Other Calls	116
Members-at-Large 2019	Brian L. & Guillermo O.	Total Calls	272
Advisor to the Board:	Jenni S.	Average Calls/Day	13.6
Manager:	Dennis B.	Total Visitors	230

APRIL 2018 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, April 17th @ 7:30 PM
 SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH (Church Basement)
 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

FEBRUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	34
Total Group Contributions:	\$3342
Number of Faithful Fivers:	16
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$245



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 February**

- 11 W. Bernard Group
- 11th Step Meditation
- Anoka Day By Day
- Burnsville - Primary Purpose
- Children of Chaos Plus
- Dakota Alano MON 8PM
- Dakota Alano THUR 1145AM
- Dakota House
- Forest Lake Alano
- Friday Night Women's in W. St. Paul
- Gloria Dei AA
- Hampden Park Group
- Happy Hour Men's Meeting
- Hazelwood AA
- Highland Park Groups
- January 6th Group- Roseville
- Little Canada Wednesday Night
- Live and Let Live
- North Dale Group
- Positively 4th Street
- Ridge Runners III Sun 830AM
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Wed Night
- Rule 62 Step & Tradition Group
- Shivering Denizens
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- Stillwater Rivertown Group Sun PM
- Summit Hill
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Valley Step Group
- We Care Groups
- White Bear SAT AM Women's Group
- Women's 12 & 12 Monday
- Woodbury Wed. Noon Group

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

Barb M., Chuck L., David D.,
Frank D., Henry O., Jim B., Jimmy D.,
Luis V., Marc S., Matt F., Melanie J.,
Michelle K., Rick G., Suzanne B.,
Tiffani M., Woody W.

Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!



The Group Conscience Happens in Public

One of the oddities of our Twelve Traditions is that the long form of the Tradition Two is shorter than the short form – “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.” This form of the Tradition is simple and powerful. If you want to find God, look to the group conscience. And in my experience, the group conscience happens in public – meaning in the open discussion of ideas and principles and topics put before all who participate in that body or group or entity. There is a difference between participating in the group conscience and trying to influence other people to agree with my point of view. One tends to happen in full view of everyone involved and the other tends to happen in private conversations and smaller, exclusive groups.

I can tell you that it took a good long while for me to even learn what a group conscience was after I first got to A.A. Along with many newcomers, I confused the day-to-day decision making I saw at my group's business meetings with the group conscience. If I had thought about it more, I might have questioned why God would be so busy helping my home group decide if we should buy a new coffee pot or debate whether to assign four or six greeters to the various entrances to our meeting space.

The group conscience mentioned in Tradition Two applies to a different kind of decision-making process. The group conscience talked about here has to do with decisions made at the group, District, Area, and General Service Conference level that involve the principles found in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The kinds of topics that require a group conscience generally involve setting policies and procedures that incorporate our principles in ways that serve other alcoholics, unify our groups, or ensure our A.A. world services are made available far and wide. And interspersed among these topics is the need to make sure we apply the principles to *how* we work together as a group, no matter what level of our service structure we are talking about.

Deciding something like whether to have the coffee pot in the front of the room or back of the room comes down to nothing more than a preference and is usually decided by a simple majority of group members. But deciding something like how our group will distribute any excess Seventh Tradition contributions to the District, Area, and General Service Office involves thought, debate, and consideration of larger principles. We ask where we think our group contributions could make the biggest difference in helping other alcoholics. We consider the kinds of work being done by the various service entities to help us decide how much we would like to give to each. To decide these issues, we debate principles like self-support found in Tradition Seven and our primary purpose as found in Tradition Five. Group members may not all agree and yet they all believe their point of view is based on principles found in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

A group conscience is most often decided by coming to substantial unanimity on the issue – meaning that at least two-thirds of the members making the decision agree. The reason that we strive for this kind of “super majority” is to preserve the underlying principle of unity. It may take longer to debate and decide something when we need two-thirds to approve a group conscience decision, but once decided we know that a large majority of group members support it.

Participating in a group conscience decision on a subject that is controversial or about which many members have passionate opinions can be intimidating for many A.A. members. The thought that a position we feel strongly about is not shared by other group members can cause anxiety or fear or resentment. It is not surprising that we are sometimes tempted to drum up support for our ideas by trying to convince our friends of our case or trying to poke holes in the case made by those we disagree with. These might be typical ways of

(Continued page 2)

The Group Conscience Happens in Public (Con't)

interacting if we think that the point of our participation in the group conscience is to win an argument or capture the majority of a vote. But that's not the spirit or the purpose of the group conscience. And too often, when we are in vote gathering mode or argument winning mode, we are drawn to practice this behavior privately, away from the principled scrutiny and guidance of the larger group.

If Tradition Two tells us that the expression of God is in the group conscience, then we are working against ourselves to limit the number of participants, or the viewpoints of the participants, or the variety of perspectives of the participants in the group conscience. God will show up more fully when we have included all who are part of and affected by our group conscience. If we trust our principles, then I hope we would want to have the benefit of full and open debate and the active participation of the most diverse group of A.A. members possible. The group conscience happens in public, where the wisdom and creativity of the group can come through in the open-hearted sharing of divergent ideas. That's where God shows up and that's what our Fellowship needs most to help guide us in applying our principles: Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

With hopes of debating with you in public,

-Curt K.

Delegate – Panel 67

Area 36 – Southern Minnesota

delegate@area36.org

The AA Member and the General Service Conference

As a trustee, this period of time in the first one-third of the year is intense and busy. The annual General Service Conference (GSC) will be held in New York City at the end of April, but the preparation work really began as soon as the agenda item deadline passed in December. This is the time that a very active engagement process takes place throughout the service structure, and AA members are actively expressing themselves on a wide range of items on the GSC agenda.

I am on three trustee committees (International, Nominating, Finance) and we have to submit our work for the January Board meeting by the end of December. Much of that information is what becomes GSC background information. We supplement that with any proposal that is recommended at the January Board meeting to be on the agenda. Of course, the General Service Office (GSO) compiles associated background on the final agenda that is set at the January Board meeting. That is all done over approximately two weeks, as it is provided to all Conference members on February 15th. Staff has two more weeks to get all of the background translated into Spanish and French. A hefty workload!

As I write this article I have returned from the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC), which was held in West Des Moines, IA March 2-4th. Over 400 AA members, which included many GSRs and AA members without general service positions that were simply interested in participating in the group conscience process went over every GSC Agenda item in detail. Over

(Continued page 3)

The AA Member and the General Service Conference (Con't)

course of approximately eight hours, one of the eight delegates in the West Central Region covered each of the 13 GSC Conference committee agendas with everyone attending. Questions were asked, experience shared, and every AA member had a chance to participate.

But for many AA's, being at the WCRAASC wasn't an option because of distance, time, etc. However, the service structure provides other opportunities to be a full participant in the Conference process. The delegates left the WCRAASC for their home areas, and it is in each area that more robust discussions will take place. Over the last twenty years, the GSC agenda and all of the background have become readily available to each and every AA member. A recent check during a call with the delegates revealed that every area in the West Central Region has a mechanism for any AA member to obtain the background. Every area has an online feature, typically a web site page (with password protection) to download the information, or an online storage system that, with the appropriate link, provides access to the background information in PDF file format.

With over 80 background items on the agenda and 650 pages of background, it's a big task to become informed. However, most delegates help to highlight the items that need a full discussion with every AA member in every AA group, so that the delegate can be cognizant of what the group conscience is in their respective area. Groups generally have some discussions on some or all of the agenda, GSRs discuss it at their district, and everyone has the opportunity to participate in discussions at area assemblies. In some areas in the WCR, a time dedicated to GSC agenda item discussions takes place.

Yes, our common welfare comes first, and to insure we know what that is, AA has the group conscience as the mechanism to insure we are focusing on what is best for all of us. There's seldom a dearth of ideas to foster the growth and survival of AA (as seen from over 80 agenda items!), and by every AA member applying the Traditions in the group conscience process, we insure our future. The Responsibility pledge, often recited in AA meetings, tells it all:

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA, always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible."

Your group's General Service Representative (GSR) is tasked with carrying your voice, the voice of your group, to the district and area meetings. But to do that, we all have to share our experience, strength and hope with our GSR. A healthy, informed group is the basis of a healthy, informed fellowship. AA's very existence depends on a unified, informed fellowship. In fact, AA also has a Declaration of Unity, (and unity is our most cherished possession) that encapsulates this sentiment:

This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

Having a voice in process is a responsibility, an opportunity, and a way to be right in the middle of AA. In AA we don't ask for special talents; instead AA has a rich history of "qualifying the chosen" rather than "choosing the qualified". Every AA member reading this can be a part of the process that determines the future of AA. Will you be a part of it?

Yours in Service,
Thomas A.
WCR Trustee & AAWS Director

PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN BOARD

“Living In The Solution!”



GOPHER STATE ROUNDUP XLV MAY 25, 26 and 27, 2018



Activities and Accommodations at:
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
Highway 100 & 494, Bloomington, MN

MEETINGS • SPEAKERS • FELLOWSHIP • HOSPITALITY ROOMS • A.A. FILMS

REGISTRATION – \$20.00 Contribution (ages 13 & over)

Visit www.gopherstateroundup.org for registration

Guaranteed Special Room Rates
Register early for the best rate. Details at
www.gopherstateroundup.org
or directly with DoubleTree by Hilton at 800-222-8733.
Mention Gopher State Roundup for special rate.

Gopher State Roundup is a special A.A. conference
with Al-Anon participation.

Gopher State Roundup is self-supporting.
No contributions from A.A. groups are used to pay
for this event.

Expenses such as hotel fees, travel & lodging for
the speakers, and printed material are paid through
registration fees.

No baskets are passed during this event.

SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, MAY 25
7:30 PM Judy C., A.A., New York, NY
10:00 PM Scott F., A.A., Bristol, PA

SATURDAY, MAY 26
9:30 AM Diane A., Al-Anon, Nashville, TN
11:30 AM Sandra W., A.A., New York, NY
2:00 PM Pati S., Al-Anon, Fort Worth, TX
4:00 PM Jay S., A.A., Sedona, AZ (History)
7:30 PM Sheldon F., A.A., Las Vegas, NV
10:00 PM Amy D., A.A., Louisville, KY

SUNDAY, MAY 27
10:00 AM Jay S., A.A., Sedona, AZ
ASL interpretation provided for the meetings listed above.
CDs are available in the Grand Ballroom foyer.

Minnesota District 5 Round Robin Schedule

- April 14, 2018 Madison
- April 28, 2018 Canby
- May 12, 2018 Ortonville/Big Stone
- June 9, 2018 Montevideo
- July 21, 2018 42nd Freedom Fest Montevideo
- August 11, 2018 Clara City
- September 8, 2018 Granite Falls
- October 13, 2018 Appleton
- November 10, 2018 Benson

- Round Robin meals begin at 6 p.m. and meetings at 7:00 p.m. (Except for September at Granite Falls the meal is at 4 p.m. and the meeting is at 5 p.m.)
- District 5 GSR Meetings are held once each quarter on Monday, 7 p.m. at Appleton Alano Club (January 8, April 2, July 2, and October 1). For updated information check out the District 5 website at <http://mndist5aa.wix.com/mndist5aa>

SHARE YOUR LOVE... BECOME A GRAPEVINE REP!

IN THIS ROLE, YOU WILL:

- Announce the latest issue at your meeting
- Talk about the magazine's content – the stories make great topics for discussion
- Encourage your group to participate by sending in stories, art work or jokes
- Spread the word about Grapevine's new services and products

HOW TO GET STARTED:

- Offer to be of service - let your home group know that you are interested.
- Sign up on our website at www.aagrapevine.org/GVR
- You will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA AND TO STAY SOBER!

Anonymity is so FRAGILE, you can break it with one finger!

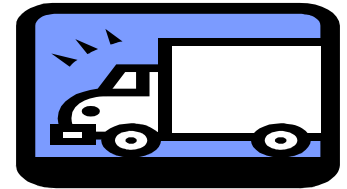
POST

St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010

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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 *Individual Contribution* Enrollment Form

Your Intergroup strives to be self-supporting, and with your personal support we can continue to carry our 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. Please consider becoming one of our *Faithful Fivers* (\$5.00/month), *Terrific Tenners* (\$10.00/month), or *Fantastic Fifteeners* (\$15.00/month).

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 ____/____/____
 Faithful Fiver (\$5.00/month)
 Terrific Tenner (\$10.00/month)
 Fantastic Fifteener (\$15.00/month)

3. Choose a Payment Method:

Credit Card/Debit Card*
 Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover
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
608 7th Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3010