



Step Nine: Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

“Amends - noun, (used with a singular or plural verb)

1. reparation or compensation for a loss, damage, or injury of any kind; recompense.”*

In my drinking days I was responsible for many an injury, damage and loss, which inevitably separated me from friends, family, and anyone else who crossed my path directly or indirectly when the tornado of my disease was in full flight. As I reflected on my Eighth Step list, I saw the carnage - emotion, mental, physical, financial and spiritual - that swept away what I treasured most: a sense of place and purpose in life; most especially the vital relationships with my friends and family. The havoc and destruction were all there spelled-out in black and white. No “what ifs” or “yeah buts” could excuse my actions. It was time for me to go out and set-right, to the best of my abilities, years of hurt feelings, damaged relationships; not to mention the lost time, money, and energy that my selfishness and self-centeredness had wrought upon the world, my friends and family.

My sponsor, having heard my Fifth Step, help to set my priorities, knowing full well my old inclinations to avoid the hard tasks in preference for half-measured & half-hearted efforts; he suggested that I go straight out and make the “hardest” amends first. I am so glad I followed his suggestion, for little did I know the gift that would come of it.

And so I found myself before my father. Here was a man I had hurt emotionally, damaged in innumerable ways, and for whom I had caused uncountable financial loss on each occasion that I turned to him to bail me out of a jam. To my father I said that what I had done to him was wrong, pure and simple. I told him that rather than be the son I always wanted to be for him, I had chosen, instead, to be a manipulative, thoughtless, selfish, inconsiderate, self-seeking and greedy kid, whose only interest was in getting what I thought I deserved, regardless of the cost to him.

I told my dad that he did not deserve to be on the receiving-end of such unconscionable behavior. I shared with him that I was taking a new approach to life through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I then told him that through A.A. I had come to realize that a life based on selfishness and self-centeredness was hardly estimable. From now on, I would try, to the best of my abilities, to set my life on a difference course, where the needs of others outweighed the needs of my own. I asked my dad how I might set things right with him, to his satisfaction.

His answer was simple and clear: check your motives, count your blessings, and give of yourself without regard to what you might get in return. Then he hugged me and told me that he was proud of me.

For the next six years, I got to know my father in a whole new light. As the years passed and he began to be crippled by Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Parkinson's disease, he demonstrated to me the principles by which he suggest I live my life. I came to see that they are the same principle the A.A. programs asks me to practice and live by.

Five years ago, as he lay in hospice, edging in and out of consciousness, I was by his side, holding his hand. There was a moment when he came into full consciousness and I said to him, “I love you.” From the depths of his soul, he replied: “I love you;” words he had rarely expressed to anyone. Those were his last words to me. He passed peacefully a week later. I am eternally grateful to A.A. for helping me to find my purpose and place in life by amending the damage caused by my active alcoholism. Thank you A.A.

-Anonymous

Source: Dictionary.com. Dictionary.com Unabridged. Random House, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/amends>.

**St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup, Inc.
608 Seventh Street West - St. Paul, MN 55102**

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

Tradition Nine: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve.

"A.A....ought never be organized." As a newcomer I welcomed anything that relieved my aversion to anyone being in charge. Like many alcoholics, I had no desire for anyone to tell me what to do. But I was confused, people greeted me at the door, the meeting room was set, the coffee was made and there was somebody leading the meeting..."she must be the president", she must be in charge.

As time went by I came to realize that there was organization in A.A., there had to be. At my Homegroup I learned that we had business meetings every month, that there were jobs that needed to be filled. My sponsor "suggested" that I attend the next month's meeting and get a job. My ego led me to believe that I would be perfect as the meeting chair...I heard that the "president" was rotating out – whatever that was. So I made that meeting and for the next two months I was in charge...of cleaning coffee cups and ashtrays. My point is there had to be organization to insure the meeting was up and running every week. Later I learned that the organization was to be the least possible and that no one was in charge.

But if there wasn't a "president" or a "grand poobah", how did all the important decisions get made? Not just the decisions at my little home group, but in A.A. as a fellowship, around the world. Who decided whether we were to be an "open" or a "closed" meeting? Who decided if we would publish a 4th edition of the Big Book? Who decides how we will participate in social media? The fellowship decides...but how? It happens through the group conscience; the group conscience of the Tuesday Night Big Book meeting, or the group conscience of the Area Assembly., or the group conscience of the General Service Conference. All groups are created to insure that the thoughts and ideas of the fellowship are communicated from the smallest of groups to the General Service Office of A.A. In New York.

It was "suggested" that I get involved in general service...and I did, at the district, area and my local Intergroup office...and I learned that these groups were there to insure that A.A. continue to grow, that A.A. remain strong, so that the future of A.A. be insured for us and those to come in the future.

I learned how the meeting lists were constantly updated, how the phones were answered, so that the suffering alcoholic would have someone to talk to in their time of need. I learned about everything needed at our General Service Office, from committee desks to editors, accountants to trustees. How we entrust our delegates to travel to the General Service Conference each year to make the decisions regarding the future of Alcoholics Anonymous.

While organization exists in A.A., it doesn't rule, judge or govern. Our GSO assumes the responsibility of the day to day operations of A.A., but does so with the guidance of the delegates and trustees – elected in the "spirit of service" and built through the concept of rotation. Rotation insures that all positions and jobs, from greeter to GSR, coffee maker to delegate, be functional but temporary. I know that whatever position any of us hold, it's for this rotation – and this just happens to be my turn.

They do not govern! Most of us have been raised in an environment where the leaders are in charge, that they make the rules and enforce them. For those of us with huge egos, the powers of position have lured us in like a moth to the flame. I learned in A.A. that there were no positions of power. That to serve the fellowship I must leave the ego at the door and welcome my higher power into the room.

As it says in the 12 & 12, "It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us."

- Roy E. - Area 36 Chairperson

District 8 Report

Greetings from District 8!

At our District meeting in July we had Carla N come to talk about how to give an AA informational talk, at our August meeting we had William W come to talk about group records.

We covered a day at the State Fair AA booth, and we enjoyed hosting a booth at the Ramsey County Fair, as well.

We are in the planning stages for a workshop in the fall and possibly a few other events.

Our committees have several projects they are working on and we could always use help.

I am still looking for an alternate DCM and a finance chair. If you are interested in one of these positions or would like to help us carry the message, please contact me at: dist8area36.org or 763-516-2165 or come to the district meeting.

The district meeting is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm, held in Room 108 of the Fairview Community Center on County Road B between Cleveland and Fairview Avenues. Everyone is welcome; you do not need to be a GSR (General Service Representative) to attend.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sue M. ,DCM, District 8

Thoughts From Your Board

Hello! My name is Lindsey and I am an alcoholic. (I didn't know how else to start. Lol.) My sobriety date is August 29, 2015. I am currently serving as the Alternate Board Chairperson for St. Paul Intergroup. I would like to tell you about how I got here.

I attended my first Intergroup meeting because I volunteered to be the Intergroup Representative for my Home Group. My sponsor had suggested that I get a commitment at my Home Group and so I did. At the first meeting, I was very confused and didn't understand much of what was happening. I had been to many AA meetings but not an Intergroup meeting so this was very new to me. As an Intergroup Representative, I learned that the Intergroup meeting is formally called the "Saint Paul Intergroup Council meeting" and that "all groups are urged to send a representative to this meeting". At these meetings we conduct the "business" of AA: making sure the phones are on, the website is up-to-date, the groups voice is heard, the office is running well, etc. In other words, the Intergroup Board (and Council) serve the AA groups. I kept coming back and "fell in love".

When my term as Representative was up for my Home Group, I wanted to keep attending, so I found another group that I attended regularly that didn't have an Intergroup Rep. and asked to be their Rep. Some time after, someone suggested that I run for the Intergroup Board. So... I created a "Service Resume" and was nominated for Alt. Chair and participated in the election. It was an excited election process and it came down to "The Hat". And that was it. I was now an Officer of the Board. I really had no idea what that meant but I have been learning over the last 8+ months how the Board conducts business. It has been fascinating to learn how AA functions at a bigger level than the meetings. I also enjoy learning and have been impressed by how much Intergroup does for the AA community. I urge anyone who attends an AA meeting that does not currently have an Intergroup Representative to volunteer to be the Rep. and join us at the Intergroup Council meeting the third Tuesday of the month. We work for the AA groups and we want each AA group to have a voice in our business. Hope to see you soon!

Thank you so much for helping me stay sober and for letting me be of service.

With Love and Gratitude,

Lindsey D., Alternate Board Chair

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.



Save the Date!

One Year Speaker:
To be announced

Main A.A. Speaker:
To be announced

**St Paul Intergroup's
Annual
Gratitude Night**

Saturday

November 23, 2019

7:00 pm

Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer

285 North Dale St.

St. Paul, MN 55103



ASL Interpreted upon request. Please
contact Intergroup Staff by October 18th: 651-227-5502,
or Lifeline@aastpaul.org

Announcements & Updates

Group and Area News

Meeting to Resume: The WBL Redeemer group will resume meeting Thursdays at 7:30PM on September 5th, after a summer hiatus. The group meets at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3770 Bellaire Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110. The group hosts a Closed, All-ages, Mixed, Big Book and Step meeting.

Meeting Day & Location change: The Fireside Women's Group is now meeting 6:30PM Tuesdays at the Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave. (Use Ryan Street Entrance), Roseville 55113. The meeting is Closed, All-ages, Women Only, Big Book, Accessible, with Childcare Available. On the fourth Tuesday, there is Potluck at 6:00PM, followed by a Speaker Meeting.

New Meeting: The *Friends of Bill W.* is hosting a Wednesday 7:00PM meeting in the basement of the Church of St. Agnes, 535 Thomas Avenue West, St. Paul, 55103. The meeting is Closed, All-Ages, Men Only, and Topic-based.

New Meeting: Parkway A.A. is hosting a Sunday 6:30PM meeting at the Church of the Apostles, 701 East 130th Street, Burnsville, 55337. The meeting is Closed, All-Ages, Mixed, Accessible and the format is Step and Topic.

Please Let us know about any meeting changes, new meetings, or any meetings that are no longer. Please email:
lifeline@aastpaul.org

HOOTS!

WANTED: One New Night Owl Committee volunteer

The Night Owl Committee members take turns carrying the back-up Phone for one week at a time. We help out if a volunteer has a problem and we also make the reminder calls.

Requirements:

- >1 year sobriety
- >Answer the back-up phone during your rotation
- >Experience with Night Owl
- >2 yr commitment

Thank you!

Frank N.
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.

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.



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

Upcoming Night Owl Orientations:
Saturday, Sep 21st, Oct 19th, Nov 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, July 16th 7:30pm

1. Opened with the Serenity Prayer, introductions, and read the Primary Purpose of Intergroup.
2. No minutes to review from last month because of joint delegate presentation with District.
3. Treasurer's Report, Justin— Total Contributions: Good contributions from groups, good literature sales. Expenses: N/A. See Treasurer's Report for full financial details. Contact Justin at treasurer@aastpaul.org
4. Office Report, Bill S – 79 people visited intergroup last week. July is off to a good start. Today made 55 calls to find a temporary sponsor for a lady, need volunteers. Perhaps it should be added to the golden volunteer sign up sheet whether text or call is best way to reach a volunteer. *Please email lifeline@aa Some changes to stpaul.org for further information.*
5. Night Owl Report, Lindsey D – Hoots section of Lifeline always has available open shifts. Looking for nightowl committee members. *Please contact Frank N at NightOwl@aastpaul.org or leave a message at the Intergroup Office.*
6. Website Report, Sergey – No report for June, Jonathan away for work. Sunday Night Speaker & Hole in the Donut up to date with speakers thru end of August. Fireside also up to date. For AA-related flyers to post on the website, PDF format preferred. *Contact Jonathan & Sergey at webserver@aastpaul.org.*
7. Outreach Program, Lindsey D –Need volunteers for women who are able to go to women's only meetings and make sure they are still there, and all meeting info is correct. As well as spreading the word of St. Paul intergroup to these meetings. *Please contact outreach@aastpaul.org.*
8. Update from the Board, Lindsey D – N/A
9. Liaison Reports: District 8: Mike C –N/A b/c of district/intergroup joint delegate report. District 15: Jennifer—B/c of delegates presentation, not much biz got done. Washington county fair coming up. New mtg 7pm Thursdays at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater. District 19: – N/A
10. Intergroup Events: a. Recap: St. Paul Intergroup Open House-Sat June 22nd—Food and fun, about 60 ppl came through door. Literature was purchased.
11. Group AA Announcements: a. OMD Potluck & Sobriety Recognition 1st Friday 7pm @ St. Marks
b. Archives Open House: Grilled food & open repository, Sat August 31st 12-4pm @ Area 36 Archives Repository
12. Suggestions for next month's agenda, please email secretary@aastpaul.org
13. Grapevine Report, CJ M; Volunteer for August, Barb.
16. Concept II review, Lesli D; Volunteer for Concept III, Dan
17. Mock Rep Report, Patty; Volunteer for August, Peter
18. Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Meetings Represented: District 8; District 15; Basic Text, St. Paul; Como Park Big Book, Roseville; Day By Dei, St. Paul; The Firing Line, Roseville; Hole in the Donut, Roseville; Lakeview AA, Maplewood; No Time Like the Present, Roseville; One More Was Added To..., St. Paul; OMD, St. Paul; Pocketing Our Pride, St. Paul; Roll of Nickels, Hudson, WI; St. Paul Speaker Meeting, St. Paul; Summit Hill, St. Paul; Women's Basic Text, St. Paul.

2019 Steering Board:

Chair:	Rob C.
Alternate Chair:	Linsey D.
Secretary:	Rachel P.
Treasurer:	Justin D.
Alternate Treasurer:	Mark J.
Members-at-Large 2019:	C.J. M. & Vance O.
Members-at-Large 2020:	Mike C.
Advisor to the Board:	Lesli D.
Manager	Dennis B.

Office Calls/Visitors—July 2019

Meeting information	99
Inventory/hours/location	25
12th Step calls	4
Temporary sponsor	15
Speaker request	32
Staff & Other Calls	104
Total Calls	279
Average Calls/Day	12.7
Total Visitors	267

September 2019 REPS' MEETING: Tuesday, September 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

JULY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Group Contributors	46
Total Group Contributions:	\$6899
Number of Faithful Fivers:	24
Total from Faithful Fivers:	\$340



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 July**

- 11th Step FINE Group
- A Baffled Lot
- Apple Valley Daily Reflections
- Basic Text
- Como Park BB
- Cottage Grove Groups
- Dakota Alano
- Day by Dei Saturday
- Easy Does It
- Elements Group
- Fellowship Club AA
- Forest Lake Alano
- Fourth Dimension
- Friday Nite 12x12 By The Book
- Gloria Dei AA
- Highland Park Groups
- Hugo Group
- Joy of Living Group
- Lake City Group
- Live and Let Live
- No Time Like the Present
- North Road Group
- Pages of Wisdom
- Pocketing Our Pride
- Ridge Runners III Sun 830AM
- Rivertown BB Group-Hastings
- Rosemount Groups
- Roseville Wed Night
- Safe Haven for Women Group
- Saturday Morning Serenity Group
- Shoreview 12 x 12
- Sisters of Serenity
- SOS - Sharing Our Sobriety - Afton
- St. Joe's Hospital
- Stepsisters of Northfield Group
- Stillwater Rivertown Group Sun PM
- Summit Hill
- The Book Club - Oakdale
- Third Tradition Northfield
- Uptown Club
- Valley Creek Monday
- Valley Creek Thurs Night
- Valley Step Group
- White Bear 96 Group
- Women's 12 & 12 Monday

Thanks to all of the FANTASTIC Office Volunteers who helped in July

Bob C., Caleb A., Chris H., David D., Frank D.,
Jimmy D., Jodie T-W., John K., Johnathan S.,
Julie S., Kathy K., Laura P. Lee V., Marc S.,
Matt A., Max L., Paul CM.,
Pete S., Rodrigo A., Ryan V. Stephen W.,
Steve L., Suzanne B., Ted C.



Thanks to our AWESOME Night Owls too!

AA Grapevine's Chief Executive

For three quarters of a century, the AA Grapevine has been the fellowship's "Meeting In Print", begun in 1944 by an all-volunteer staff of "ink-stained wretches". Bill Wilson quickly saw it as a powerful communications tool as a co-founder and defacto leader of AA, and used it many times until his death in 1971. In fact, all of Bill's articles can be found in the AA Grapevine book, Language of the Heart. Today, the book is printed in multiple languages, large print, hard and soft cover, and recently a price change was made for the audio version, down to \$9.99 as a download.

The AA Grapevine, Inc. is one of the two affiliate corporations of the General Service Board (GSB). Bill writes extensively in the Twelve Concepts of World Service the need to allow this voice of AA members to operate independently. It has a net positive contribution to the GSB's Reserve Fund, so over time it has been fully self-supporting. In fact, that is one of the key responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive of AAGV – to always be self-supporting through its magazine subscriptions and associated items.

In that vein, the AAGV has embarked on a 3-year strategic plan to vision and plan to maintain the financial viability of this affiliate corporation. While not part of this plan, AAGV has recently hired a new chief executive, Albin Z. This was a marvelous, outstanding opportunity for AAGV to acquire this talented individual. With a lifetime employment history almost exclusively in publishing, followed by a stint of being a General Service Trustee (GST) for AA and sitting on the AAGV corporate board plus a couple years of experience as Director of Administrative Services at the General Service Office, AAGV stands to greatly benefit from this cumulative experience.

In a conversation with Albin, his managing philosophies – congruent with our Concepts – became apparent. It starts with the new position for which he was hired, "Publisher", which was formerly Executive Editor. Albin feels that with a senior editor already on staff, the active responsibility and authority should match (Concept 10). It seems most reasonable that the chief executive should insure things are published correctly, not edited correctly, since the editorial function has been clearly defined. Additionally, in this multi-media world, it is imperative that AAGV explore the myriad of publishing options available, and that is on the top of Albin's task list. The unique blend of his overall work experience is formidable. No doubt, in a world that has overall seen printed materials decline in popularity, Albin factors in these social trends but just as quickly utilizes data more relevant to AA members' behaviors and finds the mix that fits the fellowship.

In wise business fashion, Albin has also made a change in another senior position. With an office of less than 10 people, having a full-time controller was becoming increasingly untenable and AAGV has opted to author a shared services agreement with A.A.W.S., which will simultaneously cut expenses measurably while tapping the depth of skills in the corresponding department in their sister affiliate.

Utilizing the 2018 Strategic Plan authored by the directors of AAGV last year, Albin has a clear definition of the strategic direction the Board of Directors has for the Grapevine corporation. With technology so integral to content delivery -- AAGV App, audio recordings, eBooks, to name a few – Albin has brought a new web site using Drupal 8 (latest programming language) over the finishing line, and a new wireframe for a site re-write has already been authored. The *La Vina* stories have recently been digitally archived. Simultaneously, collaboration with A.A.W.S. to have a unified shopping cart and getting AAGV onto the new Netsuite ERP system is in the works. With AA rolling out a new mobile app with Meeting Guide as a base, plans to incorporate AAGV into the app are on-going. All this work is paying off: www.aagrapevine.org has reached the highest traffic numbers it ever has had in history.

Word Search - September 2019



- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| AILMENTS | ENCOURAGE | KEystone |
| BARRIER | FOUNDATION | LOGICALLY |
| BEDEVILMENTS | GENEROSITY | OPINION |
| DECISION | JITTERS | PERSONALITY |
| DISCLOSURE | JUGGERNAUT | URGENT |

August 2019 12 and 12 Crossword Puzzle Answers

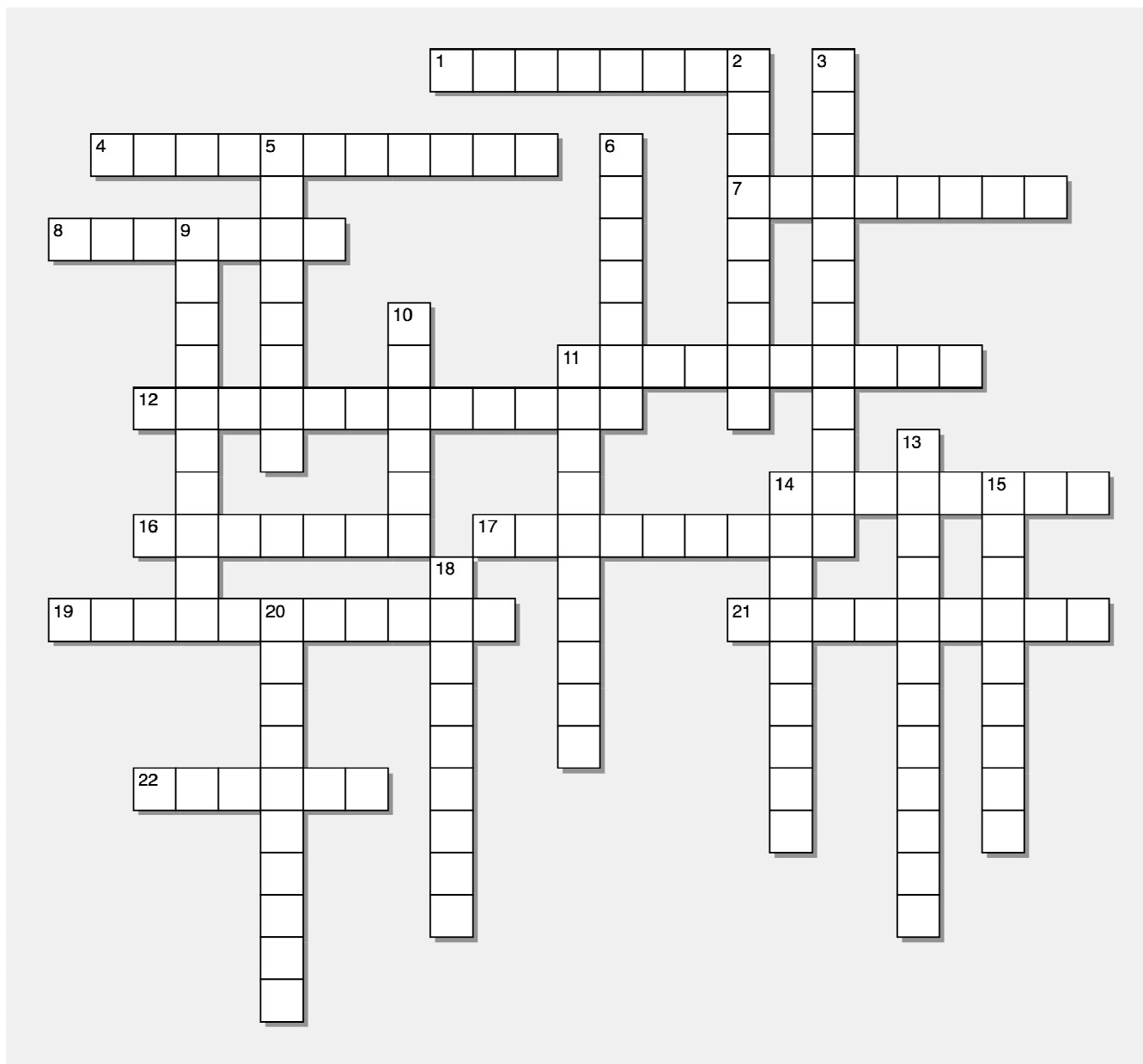
Across:

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 3). harmony | 6). nothing | 10). baffled | 11). instincts | 12). calendar | 14). laurels |
| 16). secure | 18). dilemma | 19). carefully | 20). bankrupt | | |

Down:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1). agnostic | 2). Akron | 4). fellowship | 5). suffering | 7). Immediate | 8). Medical |
| 9). Process | 13). ransack | 15). newfound | 17). entirely | | |

Big Book Crossword Puzzle - September 2019



Across

- 1). Drinking _____ most homes from the outside world.
- 4). My drinking assumed more serious _____,...
- 7). _____ up old scrapes...
- 8). ...this _____ refers to alcoholics,...
- 11). Step Eleven suggest prayer and _____.
- 12). We represent no particular faith or _____.
- 14). Almost none of us liked the self-searching, the _____ of our pride...
- 16). Stress the spiritual _____ freely.
- 17). _____ results often follow such a reunion.
- 19). ...if we _____ alcoholism for jaywalking...
- 21). Then I got a _____ business opportunity.
- 22). _____ have we seen a person fail who...

Down

- 2). The faith and _____ of both you and your...
- 3). ... are not always easy _____ to face.
- 5). ... you are willing to _____ his past performance.
- 6). Hopelessness was _____ large on the man's face.
- 9). We are like the _____ of a great liner...
- 10). ... and could not _____ our own lives.
- 11). For those of us who are unable to drink _____...
- 13). ...soon after they whole-heartedly met a few simple _____.
- 14). We know all about liquor as a social _____.
- 15). The are restless, _____, and discontented...
- 18). _____ he must keep sober,...
- 20). ...we have made little _____ upon the problem as a whole.

AA Grapevine's Chief Executive (Continued)

A new catalog has just been printed, and all three languages of our conference structure, English, French and Spanish, have their sections in the catalog. It's a virtual work of art – likely the most impressive, user-friendly, inclusive catalog AAGV has ever delivered. Speaking of languages, a new shopping cart for Spanish products has been rolled out – and the site is all in Spanish (it wasn't before!).

Integral to AAGV is a full operation to produce another bi-monthly periodical, the *La Vina*. This is a Spanish AAGV, separately edited and produced. Started in 1997, the fellowship made the decision in 2001 that it is vital to have the magazine for the Hispanic community, and since that time all costs above the profits generated by the sale of *La Vina* are paid for by the Reserve Fund, per Conference Advisory Action. So, Albin has the responsibility to insure the publishing of this second periodical.

In 2018, the Conference recommended that the AA Grapevine, Inc. begin to sell its items beyond A.A. groups and individuals. With that in mind and with approval by both affiliate boards, non-AA customers of A.A.W.S. are now being contacted by AAGV to develop additional sales for AAGV. This effort parallels the mission of AAGV, which is to provide information to all people interested in alcoholism, not only A.A. members.

AAGV generates a harmonious melody of recovery with the "voices of A.A.". AAGV both belongs to and reflects the A.A. fellowship, and the efforts of the AAGV Board of Directors, the management and staff, and the A.A. fellowship can resonate throughout our conference structure in vibrant fashion, carrying the fellowship's message of recovery, unity and service.

Yours in service,
Tom A.
WCR Trustee

Contributor's Corner

You Mended my Heart

I came to you broken spiritually, mentally and physically. There was not hope left in me. I had no will to live. The fight was over. Life had been too cruel. You promised that "if I was willing" you could help me, free my spirit, heal my broken heart and make me whole again through a new way of life. I doubted anything could help me but "I was willing to try." You said "I will love you until you can love yourself." And so you have.

When times were bad you were always there to show me different way. You taught me to take baby steps and live one day at a time. Sometimes one hour at a time. Live just for the now and never give up. You laughed with me and cried with me, teaching me the humor in life again. You showed me I wasn't strange or different, bad or good, just sick. Stronger hands reached out to me but I was afraid. Their voices said "keep coming back." Others said, "don't go away." Some said "don't leave until the miracle happens." I didn't understand, but I do NOW.

You showed me how to be a friend by your love and actions in friendship. You taught me to trust again. You gave me faith and love and to me that is trust. You put me back together one piece at a time until I was whole again. You gave me a family, a Mom, Dad, Brother and Sisters—whatever my heart was missing.

You introduced me to a God of Love that answers my prayers and knows what I need sometimes before I do. A God that heals with love and he is always with me. I am never alone or afraid.

My gratitude for life today is way beyond explaining in simple words. I try to practice what you taught me with all the newcomers I meet today by showing them I understand where they are in that I have walked to the other side with love and guidance. Maybe if they are willing I can help show them a new way to live like the time you took to show me.

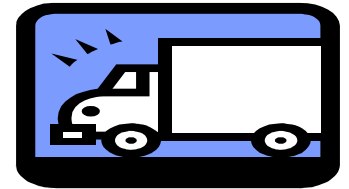
With God's guidance they can find what I almost missed. -- Anonymous

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