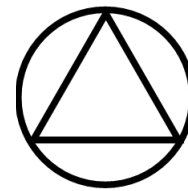


The Post

POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT



November/December 2020

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 11

EDITOR'S CORNER

The year is almost over and what a year it has been. This time last year, who would have ever thought we would have experienced a year like we have in 2020? As I reflect on the year, so much comes to mind but the one word that keeps standing out for me is resilience. We have had to change so much this year, and adjust along the way, and while it may have been painful, I am also reminded of how we have coped. Zoom has become the norm for not only AA meetings but work meetings, school sessions, etc. Masks have become a new fashion statement not to mention a point of contention among folks on different sides of the argument. Social distancing is the new way to get together and that too has folks arguing about what should and should not be done. All of these issues have resulted in our Fellowship having to buckle

down and truly apply the Traditions and Principles of our program with regard to how we conduct meetings, whether it be an AA meeting, Group Conscience, District, or Area assembly.

Reflecting on how well our Fellowship has acclimated to these new and trying times, I have to wonder how the rest of the world might be if they too operated on a set of Traditions and Principles that put personalities aside and concentrated on what is best for the whole rather than the individual. I am proud of our Fellowship. We continued to be there for the still suffering alcoholic, whether it be a newcomer or someone with sobriety who found themselves alone and scared or uncertain of what their future looked like. We were there... the hand of AA. We never missed a beat. We knew we needed each other and we adapted. We knew the newcomer would reach out...and we were

Continued on page 3

A.A. HISTORY God As We Understood Him

Bill Wilson hardly exaggerates when he notes "God as we understood Him" is perhaps the most important expression to be found in A.A. lexicon. That short phrase has made membership in A.A. possible for millions of people who otherwise would have never been able to cross over its threshold into recovery. *After days of wrangling with Bill, Hank, Fitz and myself in qualifying the word God with the phrase added, "as we understood Him," said Jim Burwell* pg. 464 of Writing The Book a historical book and taken from archives and Stepping Stones letters and notes.

Then came women and fears of female distractions or intimidation of wives. In this era low opinions of females was evident especially as alcoholics. This was not confined to opinion, but even within the rooms (as a Grapevine article in 1940s, written

by Grace O. states) "women could be harsh on one another." The article is "Women in A.A. Face Special Problems" if interested in reading in its entirety.

So, as far as prejudices go, A.A. beginnings had a few, not only God and woman, but ethnicities and sexual preferences were also under scrutiny. In time, these were worked through and as our code says, love and tolerance came through to squash those biases.

Gratefully today, through the efforts of many, those changes were bruised, hammered out, battered, and discussed to bring about a beautiful set of principles to strengthen our character in a sober and healthy lifestyle. A huge shout out of gratitude goes to all those involved in the creation and compilation of our book and fellowship. Thank God for inclusive actions, as We are inclusive never exclusive.

In love and service,
C. Faye H. - Fellowship

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Corner.....	Page 1/3
History Feature.....	Page 1/3
Mark Your Calendar	Page 2
Service Alert	Page 2
Area Meeting Schedule.....	Page 4/5
Step of the Month	Page 6
Tradition of the Month.....	Page 7/8
Concept of the Month	Page 8/9
Español Spoken Here	Page 10
District Minutes.....	Page 11/14
Intergroup Minutes	Page 15

Suggestions on topics you want explored? Contact us at Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE POST?

TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US AT
Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

THE POST is published to improve communication between local A.A.® groups and encourage the participation of A.A. members in services and activities that promote sobriety. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are those of the authors and do not indicate endorsement by Montgomery Area Intergroup Central Office or Alcoholics Anonymous®.

CONTACT US

Montgomery Area
Intergroup Central Office
Office Hours:
Monday 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
828 Forest Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106
24/7 Answering Service
(334) 264-4122

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Intergroup@centralalaa.org

Contributions for print subscriptions are encouraged.

For email subscriptions contact:
Post.Subscription@centralalaa.org

HOME
GROWN



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Intergroup Monthly Meeting
Saturday, January 2, 2021**

8:00 a.m. @ Legacies Group (via Zoom)
3412 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36109

**District 8 Service Meeting
Saturday, January 2, 2021**
9:30 a.m. @ Legacies (via Zoom)

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please check website.

MORE EVENTS & INFO:
WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/UPCOMING-EVENTS/



SERVICE ALERT

Post Positions Open - 12 month commitment:
All Post Positions are up for renewal at end of year. Voting will be in October. If interested be sure to contact Post.Editor@centralalaa.org

All Intergroup positions are up for renewal at end of year. Voting is to be in October. If interested, please contact your Intergroup Chair or come to IG meeting.

Please contact
Intergroup@centralalaa.org if willing and able to serve!

The Post

POWER OF SOBER THOUGHT

THE POST COMMITTEE

Editor/Coordinator–Natalie C.
Copy Editor–Jill Z.
Composer–James A.
Distribution– Keith P.

DEPARTMENTS

History–Faye H.
Español Spoken Here–Oni S.
The Steps– Emily J.
The Concepts–Jay W.
The Traditions–Trei J.
Birthdays–Vicki B.
Events Recap– Service Opportunity
Literature–Service Opportunity
Mark Your Calendar– Service Opportunity

WE WELCOME YOUR ASSISTANCE!
SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS YOU WANT
EXPLORED?
TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US AT
POST.EDITOR@CENTRALALAA.ORG

WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG

YOUR DISTRICT 8 ONLINE

WWW.AAAREA1.ORG

YOUR AREA 1 ONLINE

WWW.CENTRALALAA.ORG/UNITY/

INTERGROUP/LITERATURE/

LITERATURE AT CENTRAL OFFICE

The initials A.A. and the name Alcoholics Anonymous are registered trademarks and should be followed by the ® mark, to comply fully with trademark law. A.A. World Services and the Grapevine have registered a number of trademarks and logos, and the guidelines for using them are based partly on legal considerations and partly on the nature of A.A. The following is a complete list of registered trademarks and service marks that symbolize Alcoholics Anonymous, its work and its purpose: A.A.; Alcoholics Anonymous; The Big Book; Box 4-5-9; The Grapevine; A.A. Grapevine; GV; Box 180; LaVina.

EDITOR'S CORNER *Continued from page 1*

there. Was it easy? No. Was it awkward at first? Yes. But we trudged on to be there and continue giving away what was so freely given to us. Did it look different? Absolutely and it changed along the way but we persevered...we were resilient. And honestly, we have been given the opportunity to experience recovery all over the world!! I am so grateful for our Fellowship and so proud of my "people".

This double edition of the Post is my last as Editor. I am so grateful for the opportunity and I hope we played a

small part of your recovery during this odd year. You will be in good hands as Allison K. will be your new Post Editor. Thank you for being there for ME this year, as I have had a lot of change and loss, but I always knew I could find my tribe....all I had to do was reach out.

In love and service,
Natalie C. - Strange Camels



A.A. HISTORY

December 6:

1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000

1979 - Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling

The Following is from a talk by Bill Wilson - 1954

We began to shop around from one magazine to another asking if they would give us some publicity, nobody bit and it looked like the whole dump was going to be foreclosed; book, office, Wilson's, everything.

One of the boys in New York happened to be a little bit prosperous at the time and he had a fashionable clothing business on Fifth Avenue, which we learned was mostly on mortgage, having drunk nearly all of it up. His name was Bert Taylor. I went up to Bert one day and I said "Bert, there is a promise of an article in Liberty Magazine, I just got it today but it won't come out until next September. It's going to be called 'Alcoholics and God' and will be printed by Fulton Oursler the editor of Liberty Magazine. Bert, when that piece is printed, these books will go out in carload lots. We need \$1,000 bucks to get us through the summer." Bert asked, "Well, are you sure that the article is going to be printed?" "Oh yes," I said, "that's final." He said, "O.K., I haven't got the dough but there's this man down in Baltimore, Mr. Cochran, he's a customer of mine, he buys his pants in here. Let me call him up."

Bert gets on long-distance with Mr. Cochran in Baltimore, a very wealthy man, and says to him "Mr. Cochran, from time to time I mentioned this alcoholic fellowship to which I belong. Our fellowship has just come out with a magnificent new textbook, a sure cure for alcoholism. Mr. Cochran, this is something we think every public library in

America should have, and Mr. Cochran, the retail price of the book is \$2.50. Mr. Cochran, if you'll just buy a couple of thousand of those books and put them in the large libraries, of course we would sell them for that purpose at a considerable discount." Mr. Cochran, some publicity will come out next fall about this new book Alcoholics Anonymous, but in the meantime, these books are moving slowly and we need, say, \$1,000 to tide us over. Would you loan the Works Publishing Company this?" Mr. Cochran asked what the balance sheet of the Works Publishing Company looked like and after he learned what it looked like he said, "no thanks."

So Bert then said, "Now Mr. Cochran, you know me. Would you loan the money to me on the credit of my business?" "Why certainly," Mr. Cochran said, "send me down your note." So Bert hocked the business that a year or two later was to go broke anyway and saved the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The thousand dollars lasted until the Liberty article came out. 800 inquiries came in as a result of that, we moved a few books and we barely squeaked through the year 1939. And thank God for Henrietta Buckler Seiberling, a key figure in the founding and development of Alcoholics Anonymous

Note: Henrietta Seiberling's gravestone says "LET GO AND LET GOD"

*copied from a history page.

I am very grateful to have served you again this term.

In love and service,
C. Faye H. - Fellowship



Stay up to date on New - Events - Meetings and More!

www.centralalaa.org

District 8, Area 1 - Alcoholics Anonymous

https://www.centralalaa.org

SCHEDULE OF A.A. GROUP MEETINGS | UPCOMING EVENTS | CONTACT THE WEBSERVANT

**District 8, Area 1
Alcoholics Anonymous**

24-Hour Hotline:
(334) 264-4122

MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A.® GROUP MEETINGS

Meeting Schedule: January 13, 2020

Montgomery Intergroup Central Office 24/7 Hotline 334-264-4122

Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MONTGOMERY							
12 Steps Group of AA Heritage Baptist Church, Rm 127 1849 Perry Hill Road		C-D-ST-BG 6p					
A Vision for You Group of AA Baptist Health Training Entrance 2010 Normandie Dr.			O-D 7p				
Chapter 9 Group of AA CAP Auditorium 1153 Air Base Boulevard						O-D 1:30p	O-D 1:30p
Chisholm Group of AA 1409 Federal Drive	C-D-Sm 12p C-ST-Sm 6p	C-D-Sm 12p C-D-Sm 6p	C-D-Sm 12p C-L-Sm 6p	C-D-Sm 12p C-D-Sm 6p	C-D-Sm 12p C-D-Sm 6p	C-D-Sm 6p	O-S 6p
Fellowship Group of AA Grace Church at Bell Road 5 Bell Road (Corner of Bell Rd & Atlanta Hwy)	C-L & BG * 6p	C-D-BG * 6p		C-D-BG * 6p	C-L & BG * 6p	O-S 6p	C-D * 2p C-D Women's Mtg 6p
Happy Hour Group of AA 3466 Eastdale Circle (Next to Fortis College)	C-D 6:30a 12p & 6p	C-D 6:30a & 12p C-L 6p	C-D 6:30a C-L 12p C-D 6p	C-D 6:30a & 12p O-BG 6p	C-D 6:30a 12p & 6pm O-S 7p 1st Friday	C-D 12p	C-D 12p O-D 6pm
The Legacies Group of AA 3412 Atlanta Highway (Enter on Forest Hills Dr)	C-D 12p & 6p	C-L 12p	C-D 12p O-S 8p	C-D 12p	C-D 12p C-D-CL 8p	C-D 12p	C-D 9a
Living Sober Group of AA Mental Health Building 1116 South Hull Street	C-D 6p		C-L 6p				
Sole Purpose Group of AA 22 North California Street	C-D 8p			C-L 8p	C-D 8p		C-D 8p
Strange Camels Group of AA Immanuel Presbyterian Church 8790 Vaughn Road	C-L 7p	C-D 7p		C-D 7p			
Tradition Three Group of AA 386 St. Luke's Drive Bradford Health Services building	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a	O-D 11a		
We Stopped in Time Group of AA Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church (rear entrance, downstairs) 2810 Atlanta Highway		O-D 8p YP				O-D 8p YP	
CLANTON							
Clanton Group of AA Trinity Episcopal Church 503 2 nd Ave. S, Clanton, AL 35045	O-D 7p			O-L 12p		O-D 7p	
GREENVILLE							
Camellia City Group of AA Greenville Housing Authority 601 Beeland St, 36037 334-437-2015 or 334-662-7129	C-D 7p			C-D * 7p			
HOPE HULL							
County Hope Group of AA Hope Hull United Methodist Church 305 Wasden Road (Silver trailer behind church)		O-D 6p		O-BB 6p			

Continued on reverse side.

<https://www.centralalaa.org/meetings>

A.A. and Alcoholics Anonymous are registered trademarks of A.A. World Services, Inc.

MONTGOMERY INTERGROUP DIRECTORY OF A.A. GROUP MEETINGS							
Group/Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAPLESVILLE							
Maplesville Group of AA Highway 139, PO Box231, 36750					O-D 8p O-S 3 rd Fri.		C-D 8p
MILLBROOK							
Primary Purpose Group of AA Church of the Nazarene, Fellowship Hall 3251 Browns Road		O-D 6p		O-D 6p		O-D 6p	
PRATTVILLE							
Autauga S.O.S. Group of AA St. Mark's Episcopal Church 178 East 4th Street	O-L 12p	C-D 12p		C-D 12p	C-D 12p	C-D Women's Mtg 10a	
Prattville Downtown Group of AA 326 West 5th Street	O-S 6:30p	O-BG 6:30p	O-D 12p C-D 6:30p	C-D 6:30a C-L 6:30p	O-ST-S 6:30p	C-D 12p O-D-CI 6:30p	O-D 12p C-ST 6:30p
SELMA							
5th Tradition Group of AA West End Baptist Church 504 Cahaba Rd 36701					C-D 6:00p		
Selma Group of AA Courthouse, Alabama Ave & Lauderdale St	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p	O-D 6p	O-D 12:30p		O-D 6p
Selma Men's Group of AA St Paul's Episcopal Church 210 Lauderdale Street	C 6p		C 6p				
TALLASSEE							
Ray of Hope Group of AA 2872 Kent Road, Kent	O-L 7p		C-D 7p		O-D 7p		C-D 3p
12&12 Group of AA E. Tallassee United Methodist Church 101 Central Blvd, East Tallassee		O-ST * 7p					
UNION SPRINGS							
Bullock County Hospital Detox Unit 102 Conecuh Ave Union Springs, AL	O-D 7p		O-D 7p				
WETUMPKA							
Free World Group of AA Elmore Co. Extension Office, metal bldg Highway 14, Queen Ann Road							C-D 7:30p
Wetumpka Group of AA 103 West Tuskeena St.	C-D * 7p						O-D 6p

Legend

O = Open Meeting (for anyone interested in the AA program)

C = Closed Meeting (attendance limited to those with a desire to stop drinking)

- D = Discussion Sp = Speaker L = Literature Study (BB, 12/12, or Other) St = Step Study
 Cl= Candlelight W = Women's Meeting LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgendered BG = Beginners
 Sm = Smoking YP = Young People & Young at Heart * = Al-Anon Meets Simultaneously ** = Alateen Meets Simultaneously

Montgomery Intergroup provides this schedule of A.A. group meetings in this service area to member groups, individual A.A. members, and appropriate interested parties. A listing in this schedule does not imply approval or endorsement of any group's approach to or practice of the traditional A.A. program.

**Montgomery Intergroup 334-264-4122 • montgomery.intergroup@yahoo.com • www.centralalaa.org
 828 Forest Avenue, Suite A • Montgomery, AL 36106 • Open Mondays 10 – 2pm**

www.centralalaa.org Intergrout@centralalaa.org

<https://www.centralalaa.org/meetings>

STEP ELEVEN**"SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIENCE CONTACT WITH GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM, PRAYING ONLY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT. "**

I began to develop a relationship with the God of my understanding through working the previous steps. Step 11 helps me nurture that relationship. In order to realize the benefits of Step 11, I must make a daily practice of prayer and meditation. Although I don't practice it perfectly, Step 11 helps me build a strong foundation on which I can enjoy a sober, serene, and purposeful life.

Each time I pray to the God of my understanding, I build on my relationship with Him. At the beginning of sobriety, I prayed in the morning and at night because it was suggested. As I stayed sober and my faith grew, I prayed more because it was working. Today, my God is ever-present and I talk to Him throughout my day. He's always there—like the air. In the morning, I ask for guidance and direction to be the person He would have me be and how I can best

serve Him. Thy will, not mine, be done. In the evening, I review my day to see where I've fallen short and recognize where God has been working in my life. Prayer has placed my reliance upon something outside of myself, and I've learned to trust and rely on Him.

I've tried different avenues of meditation over the years and have learned it's really very simple. I do what works for me. Listening to how other people practice this step helped me realize there is no right or wrong way to meditate. I heard a speaker say she meditates every morning when she's in the shower. I heard another say sitting in an AA meeting for an hour and listening to others share is meditation. Meditation can always be further developed. For me, I often feel a strong connection to God when I run or hike. Other times, it's focusing on a daily meditation or sitting quietly and thinking about the day ahead.

The 12n12 states the link among taking inventory, meditation, and prayer creates an unshakable foundation for life. Good reason for continuing to practice this step.

Joni G. - Prattville Downtown Group
Reprint from November 2018 Edition

**HOME
GROWN**

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.**

A whole year. 12 months. Uncertainty, fear, and faith. For myself, there has never been a year where step twelve was more apropos to life's circumstances. I have fallen off the beam, never taking that drink, but not striving to carry this message many times over the last year. In the beginning of the year, I was going to accomplish so much, had so many expectations, and found myself at another bottom of sorts halfway through.

The miracle is that I never wanted a drink.

The truth is that it's because of AA and the steps that I never reached the point where I wanted to take a drink. Step's One thru Eleven helped to show me myself, learn to walk with faith, and finally reach that spiritual awakening that Step Twelve talks about. That spiritual awakening enables me to walk among the world a free woman. I can go through difficult times and see the current of the connection to my higher power that allows me grace. On the other side of those situations, I am capable of being grateful for the trial.

It is the trial's that let me carry out twelve step work.

Working with another alcoholic is something that is unexplainable. I can put a million words for what it does for me, but none of them would explain the phenomena in its entirety. It is only through working with another alcoholic that I balance on the beam. They, for me, are what connect me with my higher power.

Carrying the message is about being willing to help all those who come into my path asking for help from alcoholism. Practicing these principles in all my affairs means that I am keeping the path open to a higher power that keeps me from falling into a place where I no longer have the message I need to carry.

It can be uncomfortable.

Honesty in the small things in life. Not calling out of work sick, when I am in fact, not sick. Keeping a promise to my son that I will watch the stupid anime movie I could care less about. Answering my mother's phone call and not immediately setting it down and only picking it up to make an affirmative noise when I stop hearing her mumble of conversation. These are all personal instances that seem small, that seemingly might have nothing to do with drinking, but they are all part of how I must practice these spiritual principles. If I stop, experience has told me that it is easy to fall back into all those same behavior's that caused me to step on toes and created lifelong resentments and years of drinking. The unyielding cycle that my higher power gave me the strength to stop.

For month twelve, step twelve, and all the opportunities to walk with the faith that has been given those who have worked the twelve steps to the best of their ability, thank you for letting me (albeit not as dedicated as I had planned back in January) share my experience, hope, and strength for the last year. Wishing blessings to you all from whomever or however you call God.

Emily J - Strange Camel

TRADITION ELEVEN OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO AND FILMS.

All Traditions up to this point have dealt with our groups as one entity. We as a group ought to follow the Traditions so our unity is ensured. We have learned how our group ought to conduct ourselves with other groups and the world at large. We ought not lend our name to any cause or allow any cause to lend us their name. Implied, of course, within the Traditions is an understanding the majority of group members practice the traditions if the Group is to practice the Traditions. Until now very little emphasis has been given to individual members. The Eleventh Tradition breaks from this norm at the public level. We shall talk about A.A. at the public level; specifically, how we get our message out to the public as a group and as well as individuals.

The long form of the tradition states:

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not to be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

During the 1940's a serious threat to our longtime welfare began: A rash of anonymity breaks. Most were well meaning members who wanted to get our message out there and took matters into their own hands. Some did use our name for their own cause and a handful even wanted their fifteen minutes of fame. On page S10 of

service manual states, "...we saw the appalling risk to A.A. if all our power-drivers got loose at the public level." Self-Promotion was becoming a problem. And for us, anything self is not something that will benefit us or the world at large. We had to stay unified with how we carried our message.

We had to come up with a public relations policy for A.A. We knew we should get our message out but we could not risk our ego driven promotions. So, we chose the opposite of promotion, we chose attraction. We would let our friends promote us. We could not advertise our virtues nor could we have publicized leadership to promote our Fellowship. We realized nothing would bring out the ego for so many of us if we had a local or national face of A.A. from within the fellowship. We all had to be anonymous at the level of press, radio and films. This includes modern inventions such as podcast, Facebook, and other social media outlets. Public level is any window for the world to see and we as individuals ought to remain anonymous everywhere.

The last paragraph in the Twelve and Twelve states perfectly how we maintain our unity and purpose through this Tradition. "This, in brief, is the process by which A.A.'s Tradition Eleven was constructed. To us, however, it represents far more than a sound public relations policy. It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our fellowship." For me, the paragraph reminds us all anonymity means one thing for us when we act outward from the fellowship and another when we act internal to the fellowship.

In service,
Trei J. - Strange Camel

**HOME
GROWN**

TRADITION TWELVE ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES.

The Twelfth Step states "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps...". We achieve this by a gaining humility which allows us to become less focused on self. The spiritual awakening is the result of practicing humility. We practice what we were taught, relying on God day by day to remove all that blocks us from being useful to Him and to others. If we apply the same line of thought to the Traditions, they should have a result too. So, what would be the result of practicing the Traditions as individuals and as a Group? Unity is the goal. But what does anonymity mean?

The long form of the tradition states:

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Sacrifice. This word is the main idea behind anonymity.

Each Tradition asks us as individuals and Groups to give up something. Tradition One and Two asks us to sacrifice our personal desires and listen to God through our Group Conscience. Tradition Three states we cannot exclude any who suffer from alcoholism. Tradition Four reminds us Groups have the final say on its' matters, as long as it does not impact other groups or A.A. as a whole. Tradition Five restricts A.A. to a single purpose of carrying our message to alcoholics. Traditions Six and Seven ask us to not get caught up in money, property or prestige whether it be internal to A.A. or external contributions. Traditions Eight ensures we do this for free and for fun; we don't professionalize our twelfth step work. Tradition Nine allows for the least organization possible; we are a true democracy at the Group level. Tradition Ten restrains us from engaging in outside controversy. And Tradition Eleven keeps us grounded so we do not give way to individual egos.

The Twelfth Tradition embodies the previous eleven in its mention of their foundation. We sacrifice our desires and our drives to dominate for the good of the Group, thereby ensuring we have unity. In Language of the Heart, Bill writes, "...Traditions are little else than a specific application of the spirit of the Twelve Steps of recovery to our Group life and to our relationship with society in general". From Bill's comments we see anonymity means more than

Tradition Twelve, *Continued from page 7*

being anonymous. Anonymity means we must practice a humility within A.A. as well. When we attend meetings, everything I am means nothing for the hour in the meeting. We are not males/females, fathers/mothers, husband/wives, etc. We are all alcoholics sharing our experience, strength and hope with the alcoholic who does not think there is way out from the hopeless state of mind and body. If we stick to these ideas, God will use us for His work.

Personal note. I want to thank Natalie for the opportunity to be of service. I have really enjoyed reviewing the Traditions and relating them to my experiences. I remember my first sponsor telling me the Traditions are bigger ego

busters than the steps. I really did not have clue what he was talking about at the time, but his statement rang true for me. Not only can I use the traditions in A.A. but I can use them in all areas of my life. They are not just the for the "business" part of A.A. as I first believed; they are great teachers of humility for me. Again, thank you POST for allowing me to learn a little more and share my experience.

In service,
Trei J. - Strange Camel


CONCEPT ELEVEN

"While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern."

In what is one of the longer entries by Bill Wilson on the Concepts, he goes in depth on the standing committees of the General Service Board and its subsidiary operating boards, the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine. When this Concept was written, A.A. certainly looked a lot different. For instance, in the opening pages on Concept XI, Bill goes into great detail on what were then the five standing committees of the General Service Board which were Nominating, Finance and Budgetary, Public Information, Literature, and General Policy. Bill then proceeds to go through all of the finer points of each committee and how it operates and why it is needed. As it stands today, there are now six other specialized committees that have been added: Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities, General Service Conference, Archives, International Conventions/ Regional Forums, Corrections, and International. So that being said, as A.A. has evolved many of the issues discussed in this section could seem not exactly relevant, however, it can still be very applicable to issues we may face today.

In the final pages on Concept XI Bill discusses the internal structure of service which consists of the non-trustee members of the trustees' committees; the non-trustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. This is what underlines our service structure and without them we would not function effectively in making sure that the A.A. message reaches the next sick and suffering alcoholic. Bill states that "Mem-

bers of this group not only support the leadership of the trustees: they share leadership with them." He then goes on to explain several principles which apply to A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine Inc.:

1. The status of executives

In order for our active services to function competently it needs executive direction. It needs to always be led by one person who is supported by assistants that they might need. This person of course needs the freedom to do their job, and as long as the work is done well, they should not be interfered with.

2. Paid workers, how compensated

It is vital for paid executives or consultants to be paid what they are worth. Cheap help will feel insecure and inefficient. It is not good spirituality or good business and is very costly in the long run.

3. Rotating among paid staff workers

Each staff member at G.S.O. assignments will change every 2 years or so. Every staff member is expected to be capable of doing any job in the place except for office management.

4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important. It is always important that key paid personal be given a voting representation on our committees and cooperate boards. They should always have a status suitable to their responsibility.

Bill concludes his commentary on Concept XI by stating that "...no organization structure can fully guarantee our Headquarters against the depredations of clashing personalities, that only the sustained willingness to practice spiritual principles in all our affairs can accomplish this, and we shall never need to have any fear for our future harmony."

Love & Service

Jay W., Legacies Group

<https://www.centralalaa.org/service/twelve-concepts>



CONCEPT TWELVE

“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principal; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of Government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

Many A.A. members, when speaking on Article 12 of the Conference Charter, refer to it as “The A.A. Bill of Service Rights” because of the deep and loving respect for the spiritual liberties which the warranties point toward. Ultimately its’ purpose is to ensure for us A.A.’s to continue to enjoy a greater freedom than most any society of peoples in the world. The warranties are as important as the A.A. Traditions. In fact, the warranties ensure that the Conference will conform itself to A.A.’s Twelve Traditions and protect us from our human temptations for prestige, power, and wealth. And the Conference is commonly referred to as “The Guardian of the A.A. Traditions”. It is interwoven and meant to work together for the benefit of us all.

Warranty One: “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.”

Obviously, this does not mean that the Conference should have no money or authority, but that it ought to have a little of both. As long as the Conference doesn’t have too much money it is not in danger of perilous wealth. And as long as the Traditions and unselfishness guide our trusted servants, we aren’t in danger of perilous power.

Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principal.”

The Reserve Fund as a rule is usually around one years’ operating expenses for The Grapevine and G.S.O. It comes almost entirely from literature sales- which is used to make up from the deficit of group contributions (only around half of all listed group contribute annually to G.S.O) and group services. The Reverse Fund is in place so no unexpected events may catch us off guard, and I think no better example of why this is necessary other than 2020.

Warranty Three: “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.”

A.A. will not tolerate absolute authority in any form. This warranty is meant to reinforce “The Right of Participation” which is discussed in Concept IV. This warranty takes a strong stand against the creation of any unqualified authority in our service structure

Warranty Four: “That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by substantial unanimity.”

In order for our trusted servant to continue to work together in loving and harmonious action all important matters need to be extensively debated with the result of this being a heavy majority which can support every action made in the Conference. “Hasty overbearing of a simple majority” won’t do. And also, the minorities should be taken notice of, and their input has often changed the minds of the majority. This warranty serves as a safeguard for these very things.

Warranty Five: “That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy”

Unlike most societies or government in the world which will punish its members for failure to adhere to its customs, principles, or laws, A.A. will not. There is a saying commonly used by A.A. old-timers- “John Barleycorn is our Sergeant at Arms.” When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. It is the great persuader and we must hang together or almost surely die separately. For the same reasons we don’t enter into public controversy. We have ceased fighting anything out anyone, we have to. We should not enter into public controversy even in self defense. These things tend to work themselves out anyhow.

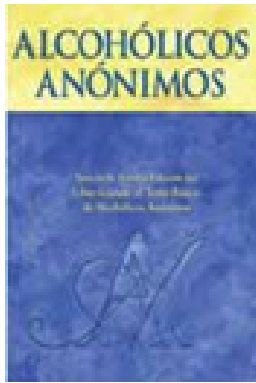
Warranty Six: “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in action and spirit.”

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.” These personal liberties as A.A. members are essential for our continued prosperity. We need always guard against authoritative acts that could undermine our freedom under God. “To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live- the freedom in which we have our being.”

Love & Service
Jay W., Legacies Group

**HOME
GROWN**

<https://www.centralalaa.org/service/twelve-concepts>



¿QUÉ ES A.A.?

Alcohólicos Anónimos es una comunidad internacional de hombres y mujeres que ha tenido un problema con la bebida. Es no profesional, automantenida, multiracial, no política y disponible en casi todo el mundo. No hay requisitos referentes a edad ni nivel de educación. Puede hacerse miembro cualquier persona que desee hacer algo para solucionar su problema con la bebida.

Desde su publicación en 1939, este texto básico ha ayudado a millones de hombres a recuperarse del alcoholismo.

Actualmente disponible en la Tercera Edición aprobada por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales, el Libro Grande contiene las historias de los cofundadores, y de muchos miembros de diversa procedencia que han encontrado la recuperación en la Comunidad mundial.

Copyright © 2015 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Nuestra oficina Central, localizada en Montgomery, AL, tiene recursos en Español como literatura y folletos.

Abierto los Lunes de

10:00 - 2:00pm.

828 Forest Avenue, Suite A

Montgomery, AL 36106

Tel: (334) 264-4122

Intergroup@centralalaa.org

<https://www.aa.org>

>> para mas informacion y recursos en Espanol

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce tiene una experiencia o historia para compartir acerca de la recuperación en las reuniones de Alcohólicos Anónimos por favor póngase en contacto conmigo Oni S., a través de Post.Editor@centralalaa.org.



Have a burning desire to share your experience, strength and hope? Send your article to post.editor@centralalaa.org.

Montgomery Area
Intergroup Central Office
828 Forest Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106